

Hafa Adai!

IPI-contracted yacht firms deny breaching contract. **PAGE 3**

Bayani Association beautifies GES playground. **PAGE 7**

\$1

Saipan Tribune



NEW YOUTH CONGRESS

Members of the 19th CNMI Youth Congress pose for a group photo after their organizational session in the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill Saturday morning. From left are Aden Chonne Hocog Calvo, Ayden Sean Camacho Yumul, Filomenaleonisa Maratita Iakopo, Maili Ilareyo'l Borja Peter, Vinnie Juan Quitugua Sablan, Peaches Fiona Gruta Bayot, Ysabella Nikonika Rita Villagomez Palacios, and Mickyiel Josh Bedruz Cabrera. **Story on Page 2**

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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DOC chief recalls service firearms

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Move comes after a DOC officer allegedly pointed gun at SO**



Torres

Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres has recalled all service firearms that were issued to Corrections officers, in the wake of allegations

that one of the officers has been charged with pointing his service weapon at his significant other.

See **DOC** on Page 4

House nixes Senate version of budget revision bill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives rejected Friday afternoon the Senate's proposed changes

in the House bill that would revise the budget law for the CNMI government's operations for fiscal year 2023.

With 17 voting "yes" and two "no" to floor leader Rep.

Edwin K. Propst's (D-Saipan) motion to reject House Bill 23-31, a bicameral conference committee will now be tasked with hammering out a mutu-

See **HOUSE** on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:

166

\$5.8M awarded to repair AMP's shoreline barriers



Sablan

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) disclosed over the weekend that GPPC Inc. has been awarded a \$5.8-million contract to repair sections of the American Memorial

See **\$5.8M** on Page 4

NMC earns nat'l recognition for marketing



NMC's marketing team is composed of, from left, NMC interim director for Marketing and Communications Raynard Travilla, marketing coordinator Miguel Dandan, NMC Foundation program coordinator Carla Sablan, NMC OIA program coordinator and photographer Casey Huliganga, and database administrator and lead graphic designer Renedel Bunio.

NMC

Northern Marianas College's marketing team recently gained national recognition for its graphic design activities, earning a bronze "Paragon" award from the National

Council for Marketing and Public Relations. Particularly, the team was awarded bronze in the category of printed marketing materials at the 2023 NCMPR Paragon

Awards in Orlando, Florida on April 1, 2023.

The 2022 Paragon Awards drew 1,726 entries from 323 colleges across the country

See **NMC** on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Hyatt Regency Saipan welcomes its new Event sales assistant manager, Vivian Taitano.

PAGE 11



ASIA

U.S. and Filipino forces blast vehicles with anti-tank missiles in combat drills in the Philippines.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

Jared "Drake" Bell, best known as a star of the television show "Drake & Josh," is found safe.

PAGE 15



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Members of 19th CNMI Youth Congress take oath of office

» **Vinnie Juan Q. Sablan is new Youth Congress speaker**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the 19th CNMI Youth Congress were sworn into office Saturday morning, with Vinnie Juan Quitugua Sablan, who represents Kagman High School, being elected speaker during an organizational session in the House of

Representatives chamber on Capital Hill.

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), who served as speaker pro tem of the CNMI Youth Congress at the start of the session, declared Sablan the speaker of the 19th CNMI Youth Congress by acclamation as there were no other nominees.

After being elected speaker, Sablan then presided over the organizational session.



Sablan

Peaches Fiona Gruta Bayot, of Marianas High School, was elected vice speaker, while Maili Ilareyo'l Borja Peter, from Mt. Carmel School, was elected floor leader.

Ysabella Nikonia Rita Villagomez Palacios, an incumbent representing Tinian Junior/Senior High School, was elected legislative secretary.

Bayot, Peter, and Palacios were all elected by acclamation as there were no other nominees.

Sablan appointed Bayot as chairperson of the Health and Welfare Committee, Peter as chairperson of Summit Activities Committee, and Palacios as chairperson of the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

Ayden Sean Camacho Yumul, of Grace Christian Academy, was appointed chairperson of the Education Committee; Aden Chonne Hoco Calvo, of Rota H. Inos Junior/Senior High School, as chairperson of the Resources, Economic Develop-

ment & Tourism Committee; Mickyiel Josh Bedruz Cabrera, of Saipan Southern High School, as chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee; and Filomenaleonisa Maratita Iakopo, of Saipan International School, as chairperson of the Sports and Recreation Committee.

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro administered the oath of office for the youth senators.

In his speech, Sablan said it is vital that the youth senators build and foster a sense

of inclusiveness, compassion, strength, and positivity in the community. "Always remember that we aren't just a voice for our schools, but a voice for the youth of the CNMI," Sablan said.

Sablan described his parents—former senator Vinnie Flores Sablan and Roca Quitugua Sablan—who were present at the session, as his ultimate inspirations.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang attended the organizational session.

See MEMBERS on Page 4

Alpha Kappa Rho 'adopts' Aquarius Beach

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Alpha Kappa Rho or AKRHO Humanitarian Council has adopted a place to maintain—the Aquarius Beach in Chalan Kanoa,

The Saipan Mayor's Office held an "Adopt-a-Place" ceremony last Friday at one of the beach pavilions behind the Aquarius Hotel, which was attended by Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, Ricardo "Rick" Ansay, the orga-

nization's grand skeptron or president, AKRHO members, Rep. Roy Ada (R-Saipan), Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Eli Cabrera, and BECQ and Saipan Mayor's Office staff.

"We are able to serve communities while we are strengthening our young organization here [on] Saipan. We are not here to make any promises, but we are going to work hard... to maintain and improve this

area," Ansay said in his remarks. "Most importantly, we want to make this functional and available to the community for everyone's enjoyment. We are very excited to start planning and we will happily share our plans with everyone," he said. "...We embrace the opportunity to serve the community."

The AKRHO mission is to offer its members the best internal experience focusing on personal character, development through leadership, and community service. It was established on Saipan in 2020 and since then has been doing various community services.



LEIGH GASES

Camacho thanked the organization for lending a hand. "... You guys care for the island and you treat the island as your home. ... You decided to join

The Alpha Kappa Rho Humanitarian Council, including Ricardo "Rick" Ansay, the organization's grand president, fifth from right, pose with Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, sixth from right, during the "Adopt-a-Place" ceremony at the Aquarius Beach in Chalan Kanoa last Friday.

the program, take ownership to beautify it, because we benefit from all of this," he said. "Once we fix up our place by promoting a safe community and a safe and clean island, then we can all sit down and open the...doors...for the tourists to visit us. You don't have to worry about crime. You don't have to worry about the eye-

sore because we all work together and treat this place as home."

The Adopt-A-Place program of the Saipan Mayor's Office is meant to empower people to be responsible and have a hand in the betterment of their community. The program is open to any groups—nonprofits, religions, ethnic groups, or others.



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IPI-contracted yacht firms deny breaching contract

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two yacht companies that brought five yachts to the CNMI pursuant to a business scheme with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC have denied allegations by the Commonwealth Ports Authority that they failed to keep up with the lease payments for use of the CNMI's commercial docks.

Phoenix Services Inc. and Pride Keen Limited, the two yacht companies contracted by IPI being sued by CPA for allegedly failing to keep up with their lease payments, have denied the allegations against them.

Phoenix Services and Pride Keen, represented by attorney Stephen Nutting, said in response to the lawsuit that his clients lack sufficient information on the allegations against them and therefore they deny them.

"[Phoenix Services and Pride Keen] are without knowledge or information

sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint and therefore deny them," said Nutting.

Phoenix Services Inc. and Pride Keen Limited were hired to provide VIP amenities to IPI patrons in the form of access to or use of luxury yachts.

According to CPA's lawsuit in Superior Court, Phoenix Services, as the entity that procured the yachts from Pride Keen and signed a lease agreement with CPA for the use of Saipan's commercial docks, owes the agency over \$91,000 in delinquent fees.

Robert Torres, who represents CPA, is asking the court to grant judgment in favor of CPA in the form of damages, with the total to be determined at trial plus interest of 9% per year.

Torres also asks that the court issue an order requiring the luxury yachts, specifically *Mariana 4* and *Mariana 5*, to remain docked at CPA's Delta dock at the defendant's

expense at its current state until judgment for damages is paid in full or until the vessels are sold for the purpose of fulfilling the judgment of the court issues.

According to the lawsuit, Phoenix Services leased Charlie Dock 2 from CPA from December 2015 to November 2020. In October 2019, Phoenix Services submitted a bunker application in order to also lease Delta Dock from CPA.

CPA and Phoenix Services entered into an agreement, with CPA issuing the entity a revocable permit for the use of Delta Dock. In exchange, Phoenix agreed to pay home

port fees per vessel, in addition to a monthly permit fee.

Sometime in March 2020, the business scheme faltered and ceased operations due to the pandemic and Phoenix Services failed to pay for both the use of Charlie Dock 2 and Delta Dock.

CPA entered into an alternative agreement with Phoenix Services soon after, reducing the fees for the use of Delta Dock in consideration of the pandemic and its impact on the economy.

Then in February 2021, Phoenix Services asked for discounts on the monthly permit fee, to which CPA obliged by waiving 50% of the monthly permit fee

from October 2020 to March 2021. CPA also provided the company a draft of a promissory note for repayments toward past due fees.

On March 30, 2021, CPA and Phoenix Services entered into an agreement regarding the promissory note, with Phoenix Services promising CPA that it would pay its debts from the Charlie Dock lease agreement and the Delta Dock permit. The total amount due CPA is \$91,827.35.

Phoenix Services has only made two payments toward the promissory note—a \$5,000 payment on April 28, 2021, and another on July 16, 2021, totaling \$10,000. Phoenix Services has made no ad-

ditional payments, CPA said, even after CPA's notice of default and demand for full payment on Sept. 29, 2021.

Meanwhile, although Pride Keen had no involvement in the lease agreements, CPA argues that the company has been unjustly enriched as it owns the two vessels that have been docked on Saipan's commercial docks for years, technically for free.

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GCC to host free FAFSA clinics

Guam Community College will be hosting FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, workshops for individuals wanting to attend summer or fall semesters. The free Tuesday and Thursday workshops will be held in the Reach for College Learning Lab, building 5000, room 5201. There are two sessions on each of the workshop days at 9am and another at 2pm on April 18, 20, 25, and 27, 2023.

Those interested in attending GCC are encouraged to attend. Completing and submitting a FAFSA application opens students to the opportunity of receiving federal financial aid, scholarships, and grant funding to support your education at GCC.

Get more information on the workshop at 671-735-5641 or email reachforcollege@guamcc.edu. For more information on FAFSA financial aid and scholarships visit www.GuamCC.edu/FinancialAid. To enroll, or register, in the summer or fall semester call 671-735-5531 or email gcc.registrar@guamcc.edu. Registration for both semesters is currently ongoing and can be done online at guamcc.edu/apply. (PR)

ATTENTION

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NMI Democratic Party elects new Central Executive Committee

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands elected a new Central Executive Committee, the governing

body of the Democratic Party of the NMI, during a general membership meeting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Pur-

pose Center in Susupe Saturday morning. In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry, Democratic

Party of the NMI chair Jonathan Cabrera said last night that the new Central Executive Committee will soon have

its first organizational meeting where new officers will be elected. Cabrera did not elaborate.

The party is expected to issue a press release today, Monday, about the meeting. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

MEMBERS

From Page 2

Sablan described his parents—former senator Vinie Flores Sablan and Roca Quitugua Sablan—who were present at the session, as his ultimate inspirations.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang attended the organizational session.

During the public comment portion of the session, Palacios advised the youth senators not to be discouraged by some of the issues that are confronting the Commonwealth and its people.

He said his and Apatang's

offices, as well as the Youth Affairs Office, will always be open to them.

Apatang said his office and he is ready to sit down with the youth senators to talk and discuss issues. "As a leader of this Commonwealth, we need to work together. We are challenging a lot of issues ahead of us," Apatang said.

CNMI Youth Congress secretary/coordinator Luis John DLG. Castro earlier stated that this year's biennial election for the 2023 CNMI Youth Congress is significant as it's been 25 years since the very first CNMI Youth Congress was convened in 1998.

\$5.8M

From Page 1

Park's shoreline barriers that have deteriorated due to a series of storms.

Sablan also said in his *e-kilili* newsletter that he met Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang in his (Sablan's) office last week where they sat down to update each other on the work each of their offices is doing since their meeting last month.

Sablan said the National Park Service announced Thursday the award of a \$5,826,464 contract to GPPC of As Perdido, Saipan to repair the failed concrete mat barriers and line the marina causeways with engi-

neered rock revetment. He said the project is expected to be completed in January 2025.

According to NPS, the shoreline protection systems at the Smiling Cove and Outer Cove Marianas at American Memorial Park were built over 30 years ago. It said the installation of the new revetments will prevent further erosion of the shoreline and stabilize the road, which is vital to user safety at the marinas.

As for his meeting with Palacios and Apatang, the delegate said the congressional office is committed to helping the Palacios-Apatang administration where it can. Sablan said that having an open and consistent dialogue is key to getting the work done.

Castro, who was a member of the 21st House, served

as speaker of the 4th CNMI Youth Congress.

DOC

From Page 1

Torres confirmed Friday that he has recalled all service-issued firearms, pursuant to a review of DOC firearm policies in the CNMI.

"I recalled all the service-issued firearms because I am currently reviewing the policy pertaining to it. This is the first Department of Corrections that I am aware of that has service-issued firearms for all sworn personnel," he said.

When asked about allegations that a DOC officer used his service firearm to threaten a significant other, Torres neither denied or confirmed the allegation.

"You would have to refer to [the Department of Public Safety] for the information related to who was charged," he stated.

Saipan Tribune did check with DPS, but it was unable to immediately confirm the allegation.

Torres also reiterated that the CNMI Department of Corrections is the first correctional facility he has served at that allows its officers to take home their service firearms.

"Allow me to clarify, sworn personnel here have service-issued firearms, but this is the first institution where they have been allowed to take it home. I recalled all of them and I am

reviewing policy. They have access to it when on duty at work and assigned to a special unit or when escorting inmates out of the institution," he said.

Nationwide, police officers are usually the enforcement officers authorized to take home their firearms, not DOC officers, Torres explained. In light of this, Torres said he wants to thoroughly review the CNMI's policies regarding service firearms, specifically for DOC.

"Police officers nationwide, I believe, are allowed to take home their service-issued weapons. Correctional Officers, on the other hand, don't in the mainland. They are armed when supervising or escorting inmates outside of the facility. The officers don't have the service-issued weapons to take home with them, whereas police officers can take them home," Torres said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Torres has extensive experience as a Correctional officer in the U.S. mainland, starting his law enforcement career in 1999 as an Adult Correctional Officer for the Department of Public Safety at Halawa Prison in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In 2002, Torres was a correctional officer for the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons at the Federal Detention Center Honolulu.

HOUSE

From Page 1

ally acceptable legislation to revise the budget law.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) appointed Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) to chair the House Conference Committee, with Reps. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) and John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) as members, and Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) as an alternate member.

Reps. Julie A. Ogo (Ind-Rota) and Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) were the ones who voted "no" to Propst's motion to reject and move into a conference committee.

Rep. Malcom Jason Omar (Ind-Saipan) was absent as he is currently in Washington, D.C. attending a policy academy pertaining to suicide prevention.

Before the voting, Attao cited changes to the bill in the Senate's version that prompted the House to reject the bill. Among those changes is the addition of \$225,000 to the budgets of both Rota and Tinian.

Attao said the position of the House would be to reject this Senate's version because they want to understand why the additional funds were being given to both municipalities on top of what has already been allocated to them.

Attao said the House is making a \$780,000 cut in

the budgets of the Saipan and Northern Islands to get employees through 72 work hours.

"It is very important that we get into a conference committee, so we can understand the Senate's position as to why they added the additional funds to [Rota] and [Tinian]," Attao said.

Last April 10, the Senate unanimously adopted the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee's proposed changes in the budget revision bill, House Bill 23-31, HS1.


Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said that among their proposed changes were providing an additional \$200,000 to Medical Referral, in addition to the \$1 million that was identified by the administration, and giving additional funding to the operations of the Executive Branch, as well as two municipalities.

Last March 17, the House unanimously passed House Bill 23-31, House Substitute 1, to repeal and re-enact the budget law for fiscal year 2023 (Public Law 22-22).


Gov. Arnold I. Palacios asked the Legislature to revise the fiscal year 2023 budget, noting that just after the first quarter of fiscal year 2023, a large portion of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act that were available for appropriation in fiscal year 2023 have already been expended and are no longer available for the rest of fiscal year 2023.



Villagomez



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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (02/22/2023) and (03/16/2023)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
 - A. Financial Report for HCPLB Revolving Fund
 - B. FY2024 Annual Budget
 - C. Update on three Proposed Regulations
 - D. Reminder: OPA Filing of Statement of Financial Interest for Calendar Year 2022
 - E. Update on Independent Dental Practice Monitoring Reviewer – Dr. Song B. Rhim
- VIII. Investigator's Report – None
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - 1. MEMO – Implementation of Cost Containment Measures for FY2023
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - B. Renewal Application
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
 - A. Advice on waiver of fees for U.S. Military
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

NMC

From Page 1

and was judged by more than 40 professionals from the marketing and public relations industry.

"I love to celebrate the outstanding work of our community college marketers," said Jeff Ebbing, NCMPR's 2022-23 president. "The creativity and hard work that went into the winning entries is on par with some of the best agencies in the country and is a testament to the talent and dedication of our members. These people are pros in every sense of the word."

The Paragon Awards recognize outstanding achievement in design and communication at community and technical colleges in the United States and Canada. It is the only national competition of its kind

that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and public relations professionals at two-year colleges. NCMPR has more than 1,600 members from nearly 550 colleges.

"I am thrilled to congratulate our talented NMC marketing team on their outstanding achievement," NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said. "We are incredibly proud of our team and grateful for their unwavering commitment to promoting and enhancing the reputation of the college."

NMC has previously earned gold, silver, and bronze awards for excellence in marketing in its regional NCMPR district, which encompasses the CNMI, Guam, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Utah, and Nevada, but this is the first time that the college competed nationally.

The team earned its recog-

nition for a brochure made for the NMC Foundation's recent Golf Open in March. The brochure had three parts: a letter from the college's president and foundation board chairperson requesting for support, a breakdown of the Golf Open's sponsorship packages, and a form for donations.

After weeks of development, the marketing team along with the NMC Foundation were able to distribute the brochures, helping to result in a successful golf open and donation drive last March.

"Receiving a Paragon Award is a tremendous accomplishment, and it speaks to the exceptional talent, passion, and hard work of each member of our team," NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico said. "I am honored to work with such an incredible group of profes-

sionals, and I am confident that they will continue to excel and achieve great things in the years ahead."

Alongside Eliptico, the individuals who worked on the winning brochure were database administrator and lead graphic designer Renedel Buno, photographer Casey Huliganga, marketing coordinator Miguel Dandan, NMC Foundation coordinator Carla Sablan, and NMC interim director for Marketing and Communications Raynard Travilla.

NMC's OIA leads all marketing and communications efforts for the college. The mission of OIA is to implement a strategic and integral communications effort that is committed to helping NMC as the premier provider of higher education and training opportunities in the Pacific. *(NMC)*

IN ONGOING CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST EX-GOVERNOR

Defense: The prosecution has not proven criminal intent

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense team of former governor Ralph DLG Torres argues that the prosecution has failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the former governor had the intent to commit acts that constitute misconduct in public office.

In its the motion for reconsideration of the order denying defendant's motion to dismiss for failure to allege essential *mens rea*, or intent, the defense told the media through an official statement that Torres denies criminal intent and the prosecution has failed to prove otherwise beyond a reasonable doubt.

"The Office of the Attorney General must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Torres had the intent to commit the act, and did in fact commit the acts, that constitute the crime of misconduct in public

office. This intent is called *mens rea*. For the travel at issue here, Mr. Torres travelled on behalf of the government and for a government purpose and denies having any criminal intent," the defense told the media.

"The failure to clearly provide the *mens rea*, or the intent, is a violation of the Constitution, laws and case laws. Therefore, the team is requesting the court to reconsider its position and further, to provide clear guidance what *mens rea* the Commonwealth must prove in the case against Mr. Torres," the defense further stated.

Meanwhile, the defense team also stated in their public statement that the attorneys employed by the Office of the Attorney General are not in compliance with the Model Rules of Professional Conduct as held by the CNMI Supreme Court in various other cases.

Torres' team of lawyers, in

a statement to the media, said they want the Superior Court to hold that the attorneys employed by the OAG be subject to and in compliance with the Model Rules of Professional Conduct as held by the CNMI Supreme Court in various other cases.

The defense claims that multiple "facts" prove that the Office of the Attorney General did not comply with the MRPC, like the "fact" that Attorney General Edward Manibusan, the complainant in this case, was not "screened" or "walled off" from the case.

"The team's position has always been that the attorney general was the former governor's attorney responsible for providing him with legal guidance. As such, the AG cannot represent a client, and then turn around and prosecute that same client right after. However, the OAG's position is that AG Manibu-

san does not have to be disqualified because he has been 'screened' out of this case and is not involved in any way," the defense stated. "During the hearing to disqualify the OAG from prosecuting this case, the prosecutors and AG Manibusan represented to the court that AG Manibusan was 'walled off' from the case because he was Mr. Torres' attorney when he was governor. As such, the court denied the team's request to disqualify the OAG from

prosecuting this case based on the assurances that the OAG had a screen in place, whereby only Mr. Robert Glass and Mr. Steve Kessel, the attorneys prosecuting this case, had access to the case file."

However, the team said one of the "facts" proving incompliance was Manibusan personally hiring special prosecutor James Kingman.

"Recently, the OAG hired a special prosecutor to assist in the prosecution of Mr. Torres.

It was AG Manibusan who negotiated the agreement for legal services with the special prosecutor. It was also AG Manibusan who instructed Department of Finance to process and release the special prosecutor's retainer paid for by public funds. In addition, the special prosecutor is supposed to report directly to AG Manibusan. These facts, and more, show that AG Manibusan is not screened off the case," the team stated.

Stay Connected Payment Notice

We want to keep you connected to everything that matters to you. To avoid any service interruptions to your residential account please make payment by **Tuesday, April 25, 2023.**

For your convenience, enjoy more ways and locations to pay:

- Online at store.ite.net/onlinebilling
- **IT&E Oleai store** – Open Monday through Saturday from 8 AM to 5 PM
- **Kada Dia Payment Center** – Open Monday through Friday from 11 AM to 3:30 PM
- **Angel Market** – Open daily from 7 AM to 10 PM (Please bring your billing statement. Cash only.)
- **Shell Stations** – Open daily. (Please bring your billing statement. Cash or card accepted.)
- Over the phone by calling 670-682-4ITE (4483).

ite.net [itecnmi](https://www.itecnmi.com) [itecnmi](https://www.itecnmi.com)



KAG-ES STUDENTS VISIT SOUTH KOREA

A group of Kagman Elementary School students traveled to South Korea last March 30 as part of the WPCA Korea Student Cultural Program. The students and chaperones were given the opportunity to experience the Korean culture (food and tours) that exposed the group to the country's spectacular views and fast paced, modern lifestyles. The students were, from left, Blue Cruz, Nathan Susulin, Chanzo Rodriguez, Antonio Borja, Natalia Hermoso, and Carlia Tudela. Their chaperones were Lavena Babauta and Martin Dalsaso. The group returned to the CNMI on April 4, 2023.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| I. Preliminary Matters | VI. Old Business |
| A. Call to Order | A. CHCC's Current Billing and Arrears |
| B. Roll Call | B. Settlement Agreement and Release |
| C. Adoption of Agenda | Agreement - NMI Superior Court |
| D. Correspondence | 11-0114, NMI Retirement |
| | Fund vs. Commonwealth |
| | Utilities Corporation |
| II. Election of Officers | |
| III. Adoption of Minutes | VII. New Business |
| 1. May 5, 2022, Regular Board Meeting | A. Board Organizational Chart |
| 2. March 21, 2023 Special Board Meeting | B. Proposed FY 2024 Budget |
| IV. Management Reports | VIII. Public Comments** |
| A. Executive Director's Report | IX. Executive Session*** |
| B. Chief Financial Officer's Report | X. Announcements |
| C. Legal Counsel's Report | XI. Adjournment |
| V. Committee Reports | |

/s/
JANICE A. TENORIO, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEM

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500/01 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: <https://cnmiports.com>



NOTICE OF OPEN PUBLIC AUCTIONS - SURPLUS EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is inviting all individuals, firms, and recycling centers to open public auctions of CPA's surplus equipment and materials. The list of surplus equipment and materials is available beginning April 14, 2023, for pick-up at the CPA Office of the Executive Director, which is located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Building, 2nd floor, or via email upon request.

Item Inspection: All items will be available for inspection beginning April 17, 2023, to May 12, 2023, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, business days only. Items located on Saipan may be inspected by contacting Mr. Santiago Camacho at the telephone number (670) 237-6500 Ext.127.

Auction Locations, Dates, and Times: The auctions will take place at the following locations, dates, and times:

Saipan: CPA Hazmat Bunker, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on May 17, 2023, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Terms and Conditions: All bidders submitting the highest itemized bid are required to pay a 20% down payment on acceptance of a bid. The balance shall be payable at CPA's Accounting Office located on the 2nd Floor of the Departure Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, within five (5) business days from the date of the Public Auction. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment must be made in cash, cashier's check, credit card, or money order made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All items are sold "AS IS" and "WHERE IS" and without warranty, guarantee, or representation of any kind, expressed or implied, as to the merchantability or fitness for any purpose of the property offered for sale. Items offered for sale are used and may contain defects not immediately detectable.

All sold properties must be removed from CPA property within five (5) calendar days from the date of payment, at the owner's expense. CPA will not be responsible for the said property after said specified time. The Buyer will make all arrangements and perform all work necessary, including packing, loading, and transportation of the property. No assistance will be provided. Upon removal of the property, all sales are final.

Any claim for a misdescription of the purchased item must be made prior to the removal of the property. If CPA confirms that the property does not conform to the description, CPA will keep the property and refund any money paid. The liability of the CPA shall not exceed the actual purchase price of the property.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids submitted for any reason set forth in this Public Auction Notice or as set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations, including bid rejection or cancellation prior to and at the Public Auction.

CPA assumes no liability for any costs incurred by bidders in their preparation of the bids. Inquiries may be directed to the CPA Procurement Officer, Alex Tudela, via email at atudela@cnmiports.com.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Leaders champion sustainability at UOG conference



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

University of Guam president Thomas W. Krise speaks at the press conference launching the 2023 University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability on April 11, at the Hyatt Regency Guam. The conference officially opened on April 12. Looking on, from left: Dr. Nicole Yamase, the first Micronesia and Pacific Islander to descend to the Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench; and Dr. Austin Shelton, director of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant programs.



The press conference on Tuesday to kick off the 2023 University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability featured speakers from the government and private sectors. Standing; from left: Dr. Nicole Yamase, the first Micronesia and Pacific Islander to descend to the Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench; Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero; and Dr. Austin Shelton, director of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant programs. Seated, from left: UOG president Thomas W. Krise; Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio; and Maria Eugenia Leon Guerrero, chairwoman of the Island Sustainability Community Advisory Board.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/MSO-009A
"ADDENDUM"
EXTENSION OF SUBMISSION DATE
MODIFICATION ON THE MASTER LIST CATALOGUE SPREADSHEET

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 5TH, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
"PROCUREMENT OF GENERAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES-STOCK ITEMS"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Over 400 attendees from different parts of the Micronesia region, internationally, and on the island gathered for the opening of the University of Guam 2023 Conference on Island Sustainability last April 12 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Leaders from the government, private, and university sectors discussed various efforts to further develop sustainable communities. The conference is themed "Rediscover the Depths of Our Island Abundance."

The conference continued through April 15.

Guam's efforts to become sustainable, including producing more food locally and developing a sustainable workforce, have grown tremendously, said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, co-chair of the conference.

"We want to make sure that our children and our children's children have an island and a place to live that is of great quality, that our waters are clean, that our air is clean that our economy is strong, and that we're providing services to our families and so forth so that's the whole bottom line," the governor said.

"At the end of the day, we will have—and we already do have—an improved quality of life and environment that we can give to our children



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero left, and University of Guam president Thomas W. Krise listen as Dr. Nicole Yamase, the first Micronesia and Pacific Islander to descend to the Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench, speaks at the 2023 UOG Conference on Island Sustainability press conference April 11 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

as their inheritance, moving forward with their lives," the governor added.

UOG president Thomas W. Krise, who co-chairs the conference, said the conference provides a unique opportunity for leaders from across the region to engage in continuing dialogue and share best practices in sustainability.

Krise hosted the Presidential Summit on Island Sustainability, a landmark event held on April 12 that brought together leaders from universities and colleges in Palau, American Samoa, the CNMI, and Jeju Island.

Krise talked about "a sense of island wisdom, island connectedness, and island consciousness" that will help the islands in the Micronesia region connect with each other toward becoming more sustainable.

"With the increasing urgency of climate change and other global challenges, university leaders play a crucial role in shaping policy and implementing practical solutions," Krise said.

Director Austin Shelton of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant programs said the conference will uncover new perspectives.

"We've inherited our land from our ancestors, and we are doing what we can today. We are really just borrowing it from our children. So that is the partnership that we are talking about and the actions that we have developed as part of Guam Green Growth, we have tracked and monitored them, and we have a lot to show for the future," Shelton said.

Maria Eugenia Leon Guerrero, chairwoman of the Island Sustainability Community Advisory Board, discussed the advisory board's role in a press conference on April 11.

"Our goal as the Community Advisory Board is to bring perspectives from all of the islands and industry leaders to contribute to the solution and vision of sustainability for our island and also take the insights that we learn from this community and bring it back to our industries and apply it there," said Maria Leon Guerrero.

This year's keynote speakers were Henk Rogers, an environmental advocate and founder of the Blue Planet Alliance, and Julian Aguon, an international human rights lawyer and founder of Blue Ocean Law. **(PR)**

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

04/17/2023

Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming:	Proposed Revised Project:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
DIS# 733	CDBG	Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment For DFEMS	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services	\$644,160.80	(\$9,316.80)	0	\$644,160.80
2016	CDBG	PY2016 Unobligated Funds Available to commit			(\$13,216.45)		
2018	CDBG	PY 2018 Unobligated Funds Available to Commit			(\$14,972.43)		
2019	CDBG	PY2019 Unobligated Funds Available to Commit			(\$24,914.28)		
2020	CDBG	PY2020 Unobligated Funds Available to Commit			(\$15,157.50)		
IDIS#715	CDBG	Kagman Community Park, Phase 2 Project		\$245,000.00	(\$49,223.20)	(\$195,776.80)	\$245,000.00
IDIS#763	CDBG	Renovation of Tinian Little League Baseball Field		\$330,000.00	(\$57,533.20)	(\$272,466.80)	\$330,000.00
IDIS#757	CDBG	Outdoor Fitness Court Facility (Rota)		\$115,166.40	(\$115,166.40)	0	\$115,166.40
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			(299,500.26)		
IDIS# 756	CDBG	Municipal of Tinian and Aguigan Multi-Purpose Facility	Municipality of Tinian and Aguigan	\$195,000.00	\$45,520.00	\$240,520.00	\$195,000.00
764	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Youth Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Youth Services	\$123,100.00	\$36,900.00	\$160,000.00	\$123,100.00
765	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Basketball Court	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Youth Services	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00
732	CDBG	Purchase of Two Wildland Trucks for the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)	\$280,000.00	\$59,900.00	\$339,900.00	\$280,000.00
NEW	CDBG	Demolition of Perilous Structures (Rota)	Municipality of Rota		\$137,180.26		
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities			\$299,500.26		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) publishes a "Public Notice" on reprogramming funds over \$100,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and in Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before May 19, 2023 no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner @ (670)234-6866/9447

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JAMES DEAN :
KALLAS :
Petitioner, :
vs. :
KATHERINE :
KAYE CONDE :
DELOS REYES :
Respondent, :

FCD-DI
CIVIL ACTION NO.
23-0118
SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT: KATHERINE KAYE CONDE DELOS REYES YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. BOX 500094 SAIPAN, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2023.

/s/ Clerk of Court



The Bayani Association officially turns over the newly-rehabilitated playground of the Garapan Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bayani Association beautifies GES playground



The Bayani Association's Gandang Pinay beauty pageant winner, Kriselle Bryana Mitzy A. Drilon, donates various balls to the school the school's use.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Bayani Association was able to restore and rehabilitate the Garapan Elementary School playground over the school spring break.

The association's Gandang Pinay beauty pageant winner, Kriselle Bryana Mitzy A. Drilon, also donated various balls to the school the school's use.

As part of the rehabilitation work on the GES playground, the basketball court surface was painted with non-slip sports paint and the backboard and rim were replaced.

The association also repaired the soccer goalie and provided a new volleyball net, and repainted its poles.

The umbrella group of Filipino organizations, United Filipino Organization, under the helm of Birhen Martinez, funded the Bayani Association project using American Rescue Plan Act funds it received.

The project has resulted in a new, revitalized playground that, most importantly, improves students' safety, physical activity levels, and enriches lives and wellbeing.

"They will explore and enjoy the playground daily. It will become a space that provides the opportunity to

practice an active lifestyle, safely engages in recreational opportunities, and encourage social interaction among the students," the association said in a news release Friday.

The association also credits other individuals and companies who assisted it with these projects, including the Northern Marianas Sports Association, *Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc. CNMI*, Celnap Ent., Realty Management Services, Ronald de Ramos, project coordinator Mario Mayuga, and UFO, said Bayani Association president Anna-mae Adaza,

She also thanked GES principal Derwin Johnson for allowing the association to rehabilitate the playground, and to all association members who volunteered to help with the rehabilitation work.

Drilon's donation of various balls—basketballs, volleyballs, and soccer balls—to the school was her way of giving back to the community.

The Bayani Association is a non-profit organization under UFO, and is committed to serving and creating projects that are beneficial to the community. (*Saipan Tribune*)

Water service interruption in Calhoun TSA

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Thursday, April 20, 2023, in the Calhoun Tank Service Area, from 8am to 4pm.

■ **Area(s) affected:** Chalan Galaide, Upper Navy Hill, China Town, and As Falape

■ **Purpose:** The scheduled water service interruption will allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor to continue completing work associated with the new genera-

tor building for the MAUI IV Booster Station.

■ **Road (s) affected:** None

For the safety of our crew, motorists are advised to use caution while driving in the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/>). (*PR*)

Job Vacancy Announcement

Operations Manager (Saipan, MP)

Oversee and supervise overall daily operations of the company; Set a strategic plan for productivity and sales targets and ensure the company meets such targets; Develop and implement strategic operational and sales plan that expands the company's customer base; Develop and implement strategic operational and sales plan that expands company's customer base; Anticipate and track operational and tactical risks inherent in the business and provide strategic solutions; Assess and analyze budgets and on-going business projects to find ways to minimize expenses and optimize profits.

Requires High School Diploma and 24 months of experience as General Manager, Operations Manager, or General Affairs Manager.

Send Resume & Transcript to Wing Corporation.
ATTN: Hyeyoung KIM, P.O.BOX 10003 PMB 586, Saipan, MP 96950.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2023-011	CDBG-DR Housing Supervisor (1-Position) Re-announcement	UNGRADED \$40,000.00 to \$45,000.00 Per annum	April 2, 2023	April 18, 2023 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc., a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands corporation, was dissolved effective December 31, 2022.

Pursuant to 4 CMC §4607 and §20-50.1-1330 of the CNMI Business Corporation Regulations, this corporation is publishing this notice of its dissolution and requests that persons with claims against this corporation must present them in accordance with this notice as follows:

1. The claim shall be in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, amount of the claim, factual basis for the claim together with copies of any and all documents supporting the claim, name and mailing address, email address and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by this corporation with respect to the claim.

2. The claim must be sent by mail to: P.O. Box 501280, Saipan MP 96950.

3. A claim against this corporation will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of this notice.

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc.
P.O. Box 501280, Saipan MP 96950

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055-Saipan-MP-96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMI-PORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PERFORM A DESK AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS. PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public Corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, hereby requests proposals from qualified and experienced firm(s) to provide professional services to perform a desk audit and performance review of the CPA executive staff and board of the directors. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluated by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport upon payment of an administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. All applicants shall pay the reasonable administrative fee of \$50.00 to receive a copy of the proposal.

CPA will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 21, 2023, to explain CPA's RFP objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held in the CPA Meeting Room located on the 1st Floor of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport (next to the Bank of Guam ATM machine). Attendance by potential applicants is encouraged but not mandated.

Questions and/or clarification regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing to Ms. Lorna Robert via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com, hand delivery, U.S. postal service mail or facsimile transmission to 670-234-5962 on or before April 28, 2023.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as "RFP for professional services to perform a desk audit and performance review of the CPA Executive Staff and CPA Board of Directors, Project No. CPA-RFP-009-23". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. CHST, May 11, 2023, to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

EPA wants to speed up EV switch. Good, the planet needs it

The Biden administration just proposed hitting the accelerator on the transition to electric vehicles. If these ambitious new rules are enacted, the U.S. could make major progress in fighting climate change.

The Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday released new pollution standards for passenger cars and trucks that would be the strongest vehicle emission regulations to date. To comply, automakers would have to significantly increase the number of electric vehicles they produce over the next decade.

That would be a huge change in the vehicle market, which has slowly been rolling out zero-emission models. Last year, about 6% of passenger cars and trucks sold were electric. The proposed emission limits are so strict, the EPA expects that about 67% of passenger vehicles sold by 2032 would be electric in order to meet the standards.

The proposal would also transform the commercial sector, in which there are now few electric models on the roads. By 2032, about half of new buses, garbage trucks and delivery vans sold would have to be electric, and 25% to 35% of new heavy-duty trucks would be zero-emission models.

Swapping out that many combustion engines would slash planet-warming pollution from the transportation sector, which is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. The EPA projects the regulations would avoid putting into the atmosphere nearly 10 billion tons of carbon emissions, which is the equivalent of two times the total U.S. carbon emissions in 2022.

These vehicle pollution standards could be one of the United States' most important steps in staving off the most devastating effects of global warming and reducing exposure to unhealthy pollution—if the regulations are put into place. As of now, they are just proposals and need to go through a public comment period before the EPA adopts the regulations, which are expected to become final next year and begin to apply to 2027 model-year vehicles.

Auto industry representatives have raised concern that the EPA's proposal may be too much, too fast. The rules would go further than Biden's previous goal of having half of all cars sold in 2030 be electric.

There are legitimate questions about supply chain readiness, including the availability of materials used in battery manufacturing, which could drive up the price of EVs. There are also real worries about whether the U.S. will have the charging stations and electric grid capability to power all those new EVs. Cost and the lack of charging stations are key reasons why 60% of consumers said they are not likely to buy an electric car as their next vehicle, according to a recent survey.

Those are challenges that must be addressed more urgently. But that doesn't mean the EPA should wait for all problems to be solved before pressing ahead with aggressive vehicle emissions standards. Regulations drive results, and the planet needs results quickly.

A United Nations report released last month warned the

See EPA on Page 9



"IT'S THE REPUBLICAN VERSION OF A PELVIC EXAM."

What went wrong in the Afghan pullout? Biden's not saying

This month marks two years since President Joe Biden ordered the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan, bringing America's two-decade war there to an end. One might hope that Washington would be engaged in a searching debate about what went wrong in that conflict. So far, alas, it's not clear that hindsight is making America much wiser.

See, most recently, the Biden administration's "after action review" of the U.S. withdrawal. That document is not an objective assessment of a searing episode. It is an exercise in blame-shifting and rationalization.

The report blames former President Donald Trump, correctly, for signing a flawed peace deal that was merely a fig leaf for U.S. withdrawal. It blames the intelligence community, correctly, for failing to foresee the speed of the Afghan military's collapse. It blames the Afghan government, correctly, for failing to take measures that might have delayed defeat. The report does not, however, acknowledge any mistakes on the part of current senior American leaders or the president himself.

There's no acknowledgment that a rapid U.S. pullout, executed just as the fighting season was starting, disastrously destabilized the battlefield. There's no analysis of the breakdowns of interagency coordination that turned an unavoidably difficult withdrawal into an epic mess. There's no discussion of the terrible consequences the pullout had for the Afghan people, including those who had worked with the U.S. Biden's national security spokesman even denied—in a statement that surely would have been labeled a "lie" had it come from the Trump administration—that there was any chaos at all in Kabul in August 2021.

A humiliating withdrawal, the report argues, was really a triumph of visionary statecraft. It's an oddly defensive stance to take—not least because the administration actually has a decent story to tell.

Even those, like me, who criticized the withdrawal must admit that aspects of Biden's decision look better now. (My view was that it made sense for the U.S. to stay if it could do so with a force of a few thousand troops, reinforced by allies; it did not make sense if the cost would have been significantly higher.)

The world has gotten ugly, quickly, since August 2021. The Taiwan Strait has become a great-power flashpoint. A full-blown war rages in Ukraine. The U.S. government can do more than one thing at a time. But Washington would probably find it harder to manage an intense proxy struggle with Russia, or the threat of conflict with China, if it were also fighting an escalating civil war in Afghanistan.

To be clear, the geopolitical effects of the withdrawal were mixed. It is plausible, although unprovable, that the impression of U.S. weakness in Afghanistan made Rus-

By **HAL BRANDS**
Bloomberg Opinion

Hal Brands is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. The Henry Kissinger Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, he is co-author, most recently, of *Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict with China* and a member of the State Department's Foreign Affairs Policy Board.



sian President Vladimir Putin think he could push harder in Ukraine. Some allied officials did worry, in public and in private, about what a botched withdrawal signaled regarding U.S. commitment and competence.

Yet the U.S. has mostly repaired that damage with its performance in Ukraine, precisely because that performance has featured vital qualities—careful alliance management, remarkably accurate intelligence, the deft use and coordination of multiple aspects of American power—that seemed lacking in the Afghanistan endgame.

Which brings us to a second point in Biden's favor: His team has learned at least one key lesson from Afghanistan.

In 2021, a relatively new national security team failed to seriously prepare for the worst-case scenario—the possibility that the Afghan government would fall before U.S. forces had even reached the exit. Biden's administration hasn't made that mistake twice.

Once it became clear, in late 2021, that Putin was getting ready for war, the administration systematically prepared for the worst-case scenario of a full-blown invasion. It pushed relevant agencies to make plans for a rapid response.

When the invasion came, Biden was thus able to impose harsh sanctions, bolster Ukraine's military effort, and otherwise get off to a fast start in addressing a historic security crisis. The fact that Biden did so poorly in handling Afghanistan is one reason he has done so well in handling Ukraine.

So why can't the administration be a bit more candid? The problem is more political than analytical.

Biden took a beating in the polls when Kabul fell. Now, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives is investigating the withdrawal. Don't be shocked if that inquiry becomes intensely adversarial and politicized. With November 2024 on the horizon, Biden certainly won't give his political rivals any additional ammunition to use against him.

See WHAT on Page 9

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The gun debate isn't hopeless. Just look at Tennessee

“We’re not going to fix it.” That instantly infamous line, delivered by a Republican congressman in the wake of a mass shooting at a private school in Nashville late last month, was supposed to be the lesson learned by anyone hoping for a robust response to another mass murder. Dispensing with thoughts, prayers and other feints in the direction of social or political responsibility, Representative Tim Burchett spoke truth to powerlessness, and did so unambiguously: It’s unfortunate that so many of you will die, but we won’t take any of the actions that we know could help you live.

Yet that ugly lesson went decisively unlearned. Instead, young activists marched to the Tennessee capitol demanding laws that value human life more than the convenience of firearm consumers.

In response, Republican leaders in the state legislature decided enough was enough; they would deliver a lesson that the kids wouldn’t soon forget. They expelled two Black lawmakers who had joined the protests and re-established the legislature as a safe haven for radical gun culture.

Once again, the lesson plan was upended. Justin Jones and Justin Pearson, the ousted legislators, challenged the Republicans, capturing the nation’s attention. Journalists began pointing out the history of crude, transgressive behavior in the ranks of the same Republicans singing hosannas to decorum. GOP leaders had sought a quick, vicious putdown of the upstarts. Instead, their own moral bankrupt-

cy became the story.

It got worse. Both expelled lawmakers were reinstated. They would return to the legislature super-empowered, with national name recognition, national fundraising bases and a nationwide network of supporters.

But there was a bigger surprise to come. Tennessee Republican Governor Bill Lee, in what a local news report called a “pivot,” asked the legislature to support an expanded red flag law allowing authorities to confiscate guns from people who “are a danger to themselves or to the population.” The current law is applicable only in cases of domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking.

In addition, Lee signed an executive order calling for greater speed in providing information to the state’s criminal background check system and for more accuracy—the better to stop dangerous people from making legal gun purchases. That’s a small start on the road to rational gun laws. But it’s a start that almost certainly is a product of youthful political activism.

In sum, the kids and their legislative champions, who were supposed to learn that they were powerless in the face of conservative reaction, have learned the opposite. The youth of Tennessee and elsewhere saw that they can win in a red state against concerted, unified, powerful opposition. As Greg Sargent wrote in the *Washington Post*, “the more onerous the use of state power in these situations, the more attention it gets.”

By FRANCIS WILKINSON

Bloomberg Opinion

Francis Wilkinson is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S. politics and policy. Previously, he was an editor for the Week, a writer for Rolling Stone, a communications consultant and a political media strategist.



It’s similar to the formula that powered the Civil Rights movement against morally bankrupt apartheid regimes across the South. (For anyone eager to indulge the false notion that nothing changes, we have evolved from firehoses and attack dogs in Birmingham to cluelessness and condescension in Nashville. That’s not the end of the campaign, but it still signals a lot of change.) Previous racial and generational conflicts weren’t easily, or even permanently, won. This one won’t be either.

Jones and Pearson repeatedly pointed out that they were fighting not just gun pathology but authoritarianism, thereby laying a conceptual framework for understanding the many battles still to come. Those battles won’t all result in victories for youth and multiracial democracy. But the Battle of Tennessee did.

We can’t be speechless about school shootings

School shootings seem to always be met by silence. During lockdowns or active shooter situations, children muffle their voices, sit still and play dead. And afterward, we are told to send our thoughts and prayers, an essentially private, soundless act even when they’re plastered across social media.

But the Covenant School shooting in Nashville on March 27 revealed something important about breaking the silence and making noise.

First of all, having “no words” is a common response to shootings, despite the Nashville shooting being the 13th of 2023 and the 51st since 2022. We’ve had plenty of time to develop a vocabulary surrounding these events. Tragedy doesn’t have to mean speechlessness. We have words and can make more.

Dr. Britney Grayson, a pediatric surgeon, who visited and departed the Covenant School in Nashville minutes before the fatal shooting said, “There are no words for this feeling.” In an interview, Nashville Predators hockey player Ryan McDonagh said, “there really are no words that you can say ...” Country-music stars LeAnn Rimes and Priscilla Block chimed in with a similar “no words” response.

First Lady Jill Biden tweeted, “Another school shooting. I am truly without words — our children deserve better.”

But despite these figures’ lack of words, how can we even try to prevent more school shootings from happening without explicitly taking a stand and being clear on what exactly the problem is?

Fortunately, young people in Tennessee didn’t mince words when, in the wake of the shooting, they demanded that the state legislature enact strict gun safety laws by directly confronting legislators at the state Capitol.

In response, Republican legislators in the state House of Representatives — in which they command a supermajority — voted to silence the voices of two Black representatives, Justin Jones and Justin J. Pearson, for allegedly violating so-called rules of “decorum.”

Republicans, meanwhile, immediately built up a wall of silence in the aftermath of the Covenant School shooting. As Tennessee Republican Rep. Tim Burchett admitted bluntly, “We’re not gonna fix it.” Rep. Jones, in contrast, put his words into action. When they cut his microphone during the protests, Jones responded on the floor of the chamber with a bullhorn.

In this spirit, we must develop vigorous and representative language. Our words must be consistent with the oratorical passion of these legislators to express the serious tragedy of gun violence in schools.

Suzanne Berne writes in her famous essay “Ground Zero” that people gathering around the World Trade Center after it collapsed described the scene as “unbelievable.” “And then they would turn to each other, dissatisfied,” she wrote. “They wanted to say something more expressive, more meaningful.”

As an English educator and creative writing professor, this wouldn’t cut it for me — I always advise against evading or deflecting calls for language in even the most tragic events.

By LAURA JEAN BAKER

Progressive Perspectives

Laura Jean Baker is the author of The Motherhood Affidavits as well as essays in Washington Post, Salon, Shondaland, and Hobart. She is in the process of completing her newest full-length project on violence in schools called Off With Their Heads: A Schoolhouse Memoir.



“Alice in Wonderland” is a useful lens. For one, the titular character’s name is in the name of ALICE training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate), an active shooter response program, which started in the wake of Columbine. More specifically, Lewis Carroll himself invented words as needed. He invented words to suit his bizarre and senselessly violent world. Take the “boojum” or the Jabberwocky or “vorpal,” which means sharp and deadly. As Shakespeare said, “Give sorrow words: the grief that does not speak.”

There are plenty of words. So let us never again say there aren’t any. Instead, we must say, “There are no more excuses. There are no prayers strong enough. There is no time left to delay.”

There are also, by the way, plenty of megaphones for dismantling the false decorum of the day.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Assistant Principals Week and Library Week

National Assistant Principals Week, which was celebrated on April 3–7 this year, is a celebration of the unsung heroes in our education system. These dedicated folks work tirelessly to bolster teachers, motivate students, support their principal, create a positive learning community, and face the many unpredictable challenges that land on their desk.

Assistant principals play a crucial role, and this week was a dedicated time to recognize them for their hard work and commitment to our schools, students, and profession. Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School would like recognize our incredible school leaders! Thank you to our vice principals Karen Manuel and Benjamin Seman for all their hard work and dedication for our students, their families, faculty and staff.

National Library Week 2023, which falls on April 23–29 this year, will be celebrated with the theme “There’s More to the Story.” Libraries are full of stories in a variety of formats, from picture books to large print, audiobooks to e-books, and more. But there’s so much more to the story. Library and librarians brings communities together through books. Library infrastructure advances communities, pro-

viding internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for students, their families and the community. Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School would like to recognize and thank our school librarian, Janet Sablan, for helping our students go on many adventures through the stories in the world of books.

Sharleen Crisostimo
Hopwood Middle School

BOOST update needed

It’s been some time now and we have to hear the status of the BOOST program. I am aware about the challenges, ongoing investigations, and perhaps it’s long overdue for an update. Will they make further disbursements to applicants that have been qualified or is the program suspended indefinitely? Will be good to get an update.

Joseph C. Reyes
As Perdido, Saipan

WHAT

From Page 8

Fortunately, there will be other opportunities to review the past with an eye to the future. The congressionally chartered, nonpartisan Afghanistan War Commission is charged with studying the entire 20-year history of the conflict. Its report will probably be sober and serious—but it probably won’t be delivered for another few years. It’s a shame we’ll have to wait so long for a more penetrating, and less politicized, reckoning with the lessons of America’s longest war.

EPA

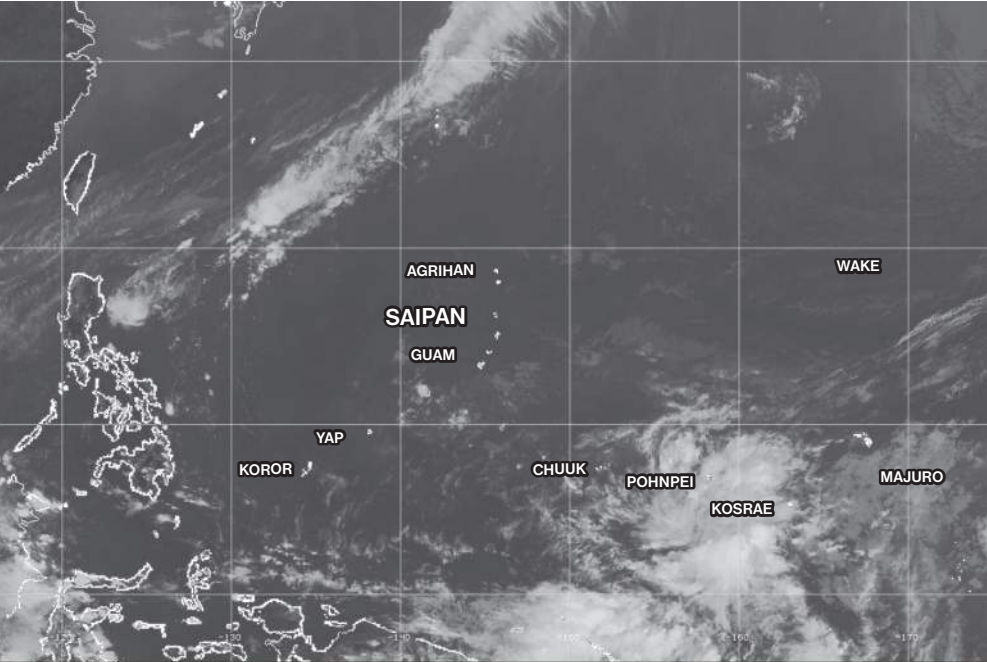
From Page 8

planet is on track to blow past 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming, a critical threshold virtually every nation on Earth has agreed to work to avoid to prevent greater harm from climate change. To avoid that fate, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate said the world needs to slash greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2035.

Reaching that requires transforming the transportation sector. It will not be easy, but it is doable and one of the most important steps the U.S. can take now to give the world a fighting chance against climate change.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:03 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery showed only isolated showers over the Marianas this morning. East to northeast winds prevail over the islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:49 AM	3:50 PM	-
Tuesday	4:30 AM	4:47 PM	-
Wednesday	5:11 AM	5:42 PM	-
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:38 PM	-
Friday	6:32 AM	7:34 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy/Wind	69° / 63°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	73° / 53°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	79° / 74°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	83° / 72°	
London	Showers	60° / 42°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 50°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	94° / 77°	
Melbourne	Rain	69° / 54°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 72°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	71° / 56°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	64° / 49°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	43° / 36°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	65° / 56°	
Rome	Sunny	57° / 41°	
Salem	Cloudy	52° / 39°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	58° / 48°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	65° / 52°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	64° / 47°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 56°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:58 AM	High Tide	1.97	
12:02 PM	Low Tide	0.83	
5:26 PM	High Tide	1.82	
12:00 AM	Low Tide	0.20	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 16, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW9308	3:45AM	7:30AM	4, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW9307	9:00PM	2:45AM+1	3, 6
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Vivian Taitano returns to her old stomping grounds

Hyatt Regency Saipan welcomes its new Event sales assistant manager Vivian Taitano to handle hotel banquet sales and events. She joined the Sales & Marketing team last week and is ready to take on new chal-

lenges and to be hands-on in planning and on site execution of small and large events.

Taitano is no stranger to Hyatt. She initially joined Hyatt Regency Saipan in 1995 as an administrative assistant



Taitano

and later became the executive secretary. In 2000, she advanced her career to be the Banquet sales manager until she transferred to Housekeeping in 2010 as the executive housekeeper.

In 2013, she branched out to Pacific Islands Club and took on roles as Banquet manager and Executive housekeeper. From 2019 to 2023, Vivian was offered a career opportunity with Veterans Affairs as program coordinator and CNMI Bureau of Military Af-

fairs as contracting specialist, respectively.

She is now back to her first home Hyatt Regency Saipan and not shy in putting into good use all that she has learned in the years that she was away. "It is great to be back! Part of it is that I

treat Hyatt as my home. I am glad to see old and new faces working at the Hyatt," Taitano said.

For inquiries about Banquet Sales and Events, call Vivian at (670)234-1234 loc. 5858 or got to saipan.regeeny.hyatt.com.

Tsubaki Tower launches happy hour at La Cantina

TUMON, Guam—The Tsubaki Tower announced the launch of its first sunset happy hour event this past week at La Cantina, the resort's wine bar on the 27th floor.

For three nights a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm, guests can enjoy preferred pricing on premium wines and cocktails at La Cantina. Guests will enjoy a 30% discount on premium and hard-to-find wine labels from around the world, inventive cocktails, premium spirits, and beers. Every Wednesday and Thursday, live Jazz performances round out the experience. The Premium Happy Hour event lasts through the end of May.

Joel Davis, assistant general manager at The Tsubaki Tower, said, "La Cantina's Premium Happy Hour event on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays offers an elevated happy hour experience. Arrive early to soak up the unparalleled ocean and island views. We are offering 30% off our expansive wine and cocktail menu, which includes hard-to-find labels by bottle or glass."

La Cantina, which means "wine cave" in Italian, is a favorite spot for the island's wine enthusiasts. La Cantina also boasts an elegant setting with spectacular views of the island, Tumon Bay, and Guam's famous sunsets over the Pacific Ocean. La Cantina is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5pm to 10pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 5pm to 11pm. Hours may be subject to change. PHR member benefits are welcome at all food and beverage outlets but are not valid for happy hour at La Cantina.

The Tsubaki Tower also announced two Spring Staycation packages. The first package offers a Food and Beverage credit with Camellia Room, Camellia Club, Camellia Jr. Suite, and Camellia Suite stays. The credit can be used at all restaurants and bars on the property. The second package offers breakfast for two at Casa Oceano with a Camellia Room stay. All pack-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For three nights a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm, guests can enjoy preferred pricing on premium wines and cocktails at The Tsubaki Tower's La Cantina.

ages include a complimentary mini-bar. Packages are available for stays through April 30 and can be viewed on The Tsubaki Tower's Instagram and Facebook (@thetsubakitower). The Tsubaki Tower will be announcing its Mother's Day room packages soon.

The Tsubaki Tower team is ready to answer questions about Premium Happy Hour at La Cantina as well as receive reservations for all restaurants and Staycation packages. Reservations can be made by calling 671-969-5200.

The Tsubaki Tower is Guam's newest luxury resort experience. The Tsubaki Tower's mission is to be an authentic ambassador of Guam's culture, natural beauty, and unique history. Located along the shores of stunning Gun Beach, the 27-story resort will offer guests panoramic views of Guam's famous sunsets and the warm blues of the Pacific Ocean. The resort is nestled in the northern part of Tumon Bay and features 340 breathtaking oceanfront rooms and suites, all within walking dis-

tance of Guam's most beautiful white-sand beaches and a world-class marine preserve. The resort features two types of dining, three types of bars, a lobby lounge, deli, club lounge, swimming pools, garden plaza, multifunction room, and a chapel in the sky. For further information about The Tsubaki Tower, call 671-969-5200, visit tsubakitower.premierhotel-group.com/guam/, or engage with them on Instagram and Facebook (@thetsubakitower).

Premier Hotel Group has been managing hotels for more than 15 years. PHG is a member of Ken Corp. Group, a pioneer in the high-end real estate rental market in metropolitan areas. Currently, PHG owns and operates a total of 32 hotels—23 properties throughout major cities in Japan, such as Tokyo, Osaka, and Okinawa, and nine hotels in Guam, Saipan, and the U.S. in collaboration with several international hotel chains. For more information about Premier Hotel Group, visit premierhotel-group.com/eng/. (PR)

G7 vows to step up moves to renewable energy, zero carbon

SAPPORO, Japan (AP)—Energy and environment ministers of the Group of Seven wealthy nations vowed to work to hasten the shift toward cleaner, renewable energy, but set no timetable for phasing out coal-fired power plants as they wrapped up talks on Sunday.

The G-7 officials issued a communique laying out their commitments after talks in the northern Japanese city of Sapporo. The 36-page document was prepared in advance of a G-7 summit in May.

Japan won endorsements from fellow G-7 countries for its own national strategy emphasizing so-called clean coal, hydrogen and nuclear energy to help ensure its energy security.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy nations wrapped up meetings Sunday on energy and environmental issues, amid



G-7 ministers on climate, energy and environment pose for a photo during its photo session in Sapporo, northern Japan, Saturday, April 15, 2023.

calls from China and other developing countries for more help in phasing out fossil fuels.

The G-7 energy and environment ministers gathered in the northern Japanese city of Sapporo were expected to issue a communique encompassing climate and other environmental concerns as well as energy security given disruptions in supplies due to

the war in Ukraine.

Officials attending the closed door talks indicated they expected a statement embracing a faster shift to renewable energy while slashing carbon emissions in the coming decade.

However, setting a timeline for phasing out coal-fired power plants remains a sticking point, the Kyodo News Service reported. Japan relies

on coal for nearly one-third of its power generation and is also promoting the use of so-called clean coal, using technology to capture carbon emissions, to produce hydrogen—which produces only water when used as fuel.

The G-7 nations account for 40% of the world's economic activity and a quarter of global carbon emissions. Their actions

are critical, but so is their support for less wealthy nations often suffering the worst effects of climate change while having the fewest resources for mitigating such impacts.

Emissions in advanced economies are falling, though historically they have been higher—the United States alone accounts for about a quarter of historic global carbon emissions—while emerging markets and developing economies now account for more than two-thirds of global carbon emissions.

The president-designate for the next United Nations climate talks, the COP28, who was also attending the talks in Sapporo, issued a statement urging G-7 nations to increase financial support for developing countries' transitions to clean energy.

Sultan Al Jaber urged fellow leaders to help deliver a "new deal" on climate finance to boost efforts to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and help protect biodiversity, especially in developing nations.

Nation

Kamala Harris rallies as high court eyes abortion pill rules

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris on Saturday urged Americans to take action during “a critical point in our nation’s history” as thousands of protesters demonstrated across the country against new limits to abortion rights making their way through the courts.

Saturday’s nationwide rallies were sparked by the U.S. Supreme Court’s actions the day before, when the high court intervened to delay rule changes that would have limited the way the abortion drug mifepristone could be used and dispensed. The limits were paused while the court reviews the case more thoroughly.

Harris made a surprise stop in Los Angeles at one of the rallies, where she called the latest upheaval over abortion rights a further incursion by conservatives into myriad “fundamental rights” many Americans thought they had.

“And so this is a moment that history will show required each of us — based on our collective love of our country — to stand up, and fight for, and protect our ideals. That’s what this moment is,” she said Saturday, speaking to several

hundred demonstrators from the steps of City Hall. “When you attack the rights of women in America, you are attacking America.”

Some of the protesters voiced their anger at the steps of the nation’s high court, which took Friday’s action at the request of the federal Justice Department. The agency asked the high court to lift restrictions on mifepristone imposed by an appellate court in Texas earlier in the week. The decision by the appellate court reduced the window of time when the drug could be used and prevented the drug from being dispensed by mail.

Critics of the Texas and appellate court decisions, including pharmaceutical companies, viewed the courts’ actions as a dangerous intrusion into the authority of the FDA, which regulates how medications are sold and used in the United States.

Demonstrators in New York City stood behind a sign with a four-letter expletive directed at Texas, where a federal judge set off the latest salvo in the battle over abortion. They held signs urging the government to defend



Vice President Kamala Harris gives remarks at the Women’s March in Los Angeles Saturday, Apr. 15, 2023. AP

Trump raised \$34M so far in 2023, including increase after indictment

NEW YORK (AP)—Former President Donald Trump has raised more than \$34 million for his 2024 White House run since the start of the year, buoyed by a big bump in donations since the announcement of criminal charges against him in New York, according to his campaign. His total after the March 30 indictment approached what he took in over the previous three months.

Trump’s latest fundraising report due to be filed Saturday with the Federal Election Commission will show he raised more than \$18.8 million between his main campaign account and a joint fundraising account over the first three months of the year, the campaign said.

Of that total for the Jan. 1-March 31 period, \$4 million came in after Trump was indicted March 30 by a grand jury in Manhattan on charges related to a hush money case stemming from the 2016 election.

The fundraising numbers were first reported by Politico.

Trump began raising money off the news of his indictment, and his campaign said he took in \$15.4 million since the announcement of charges and Saturday’s filing deadline for

the fundraising report.

Trump, who is also facing several other criminal investigations, has tried to use his legal troubles to galvanize supporters, claiming all the cases are politically motivated. He has portrayed the New York charges as “election interference” but also suggested they may help him win support.

Trump has dominated the GOP field in the early stages of the 2024 presidential race. But many high-dollar GOP donors have been looking to send their support elsewhere this time. Until his indictment, his campaign fundraising had lagged behind the massive amounts he used to raise in days or in hours when he was president.

Only a few candidates have officially entered the race, Trump’s U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley, a former South Carolina governor; former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who announced days after Trump’s indictment was filed; and tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy.

More candidates, including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, are expected to enter the race by the time next fundraising reports are due in mid-July.

medication abortions.

But the crowd was modest, attracting a little more than 100 people outside the picturesque public library along Fifth Avenue.

Still, the demonstrators attracted looks from passersby along the busy thoroughfare, some briefly joining the group to lend their voices.

“It can be hard to get people out, because people are being

bombarded with all kinds of assaults on their bodies and people are tired and poor,” said Viva Ruiz, who said she helped organize the rally.

“The news cycle is so fast that when one thing happens something terrible happens the next day. So it’s hard to sustain the momentum or the energy for people to be on the streets,” Ruiz said.

With few exceptions, many

of the rallies—organized under the banner of a group calling itself “Bigger than Roe”—were held in smaller cities.

Since last year’s reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized the right to an abortion, more than a dozen states have effectively outlawed abortion, while additional states have moved to further tighten abortion laws.

California man wore armor in hostage killing, report says

ROSEVILLE, Calif. (AP)—The suspect in a Northern California shooting last week was wearing body-armor vest when he took two hostages in a public park, killing one, wounding the other and opening fire at California Highway Patrol officers, authorities said.

The CHP officers approached suspect Eric Abril on April 6 near Mahany Park in Roseville, northeast of Sacramento, authorities said. He was wanted for questioning in connection with a freeway shooting.

But the situation turned violent. The officers confronted Abril — in a park where families played nearby at baseball fields and children

attended camp — and he took two hostages in response and opened fire, prompting a gun battle that became deadly, authorities said.

Investigators are “confident” that Abril fatally shot James MacEgan and wounded his wife, Patricia MacEgan, according to Roseville police and court documents filed by the Placer County District Attorney’s Office.

The criminal complaint filed against Abril says Officer Matthew Hiatt was also wounded in the shooting. The Sacramento Bee reported.

The officers had search warrants for Abril’s home and vehicle, but not an arrest warrant to take him into custody. Why they approached him in

such a public area, despite a lengthy criminal record, has not been made public and Officer Ricardo Ortiz, a CHP spokesperson, declined to release additional details about the situation on Saturday.

Prosecutors say Abril had a 10 mm handgun in his possession during the confrontation last week and was wearing the body-armor vest when the officers approached him, according to The Sacramento Bee. The Placer County District Attorney’s Office did not respond to The Associated Press’ request for comment.

Abril is charged with murder, aggravated kidnapping causing bodily harm, attempted murder of a peace

Officer and of being a convicted felon in possession of a gun, the newspaper reported.

Abril remains in jail without the opportunity to post bail and his arraignment was postponed to Tuesday. It was not immediately clear whether he had an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

Abril fired 15 to 20 rounds at the CHP officers and the MacEgans during the shootout, according to Roseville police. CHP officers fired 15 to 25 rounds and Roseville officers shot six bullets in response.

Abril was struck once in his left arm but it was not clear whose bullet hit him, police said.

States that support abortion rights, including California and New York, have begun stockpiling misoprostol to assure their states have adequate supplies. Washington state is among those stockpiling a supply of mifepristone or its generic form. And Massachusetts Democratic Gov. Maura Healey said the administration is dedicating \$1 million to help providers contracted with the Department of Public Health buy additional quantities of mifepristone.

More than 5.6 million women in the U.S. had used mifepristone as of June 2022, according to the FDA. In that period, the agency received 4,200 reports of complications in women, or less than one-tenth of 1% of women who took the drug.

Asia

US displays firepower in combat drills with PH



FORT MAGSAYSAY, Philip-pines (AP)—U.S. and Filipino forces on Thursday blasted vehicles with anti-tank missiles in combat-readiness drills in the Philippines that are part of a show of American firepower that has alarmed China.

The long-time treaty allies are holding their largest joint military exercises called Balikatan — Tagalog for shoulder-to-shoulder — in decades. They involve about 17,600 military personnel and will feature live-fire maneuvers, including a ship-sinking rocket attack and beach assaults to simulate retaking an island near the disputed South China Sea.

In a gunnery range at Fort Magsaysay, a northern Philip-pine training camp for Filipino special forces, American and Filipino troops fired Javelin guided missiles toward three tar-

get vehicles simulating a battle zone. The missiles streaked at a low altitude for more than half a kilometer (half a mile) toward their targets and exploded in a fireball that shook the ground.

“This is what it looks like when the U.S. and Philippine militaries come together, train together,” U.S. Army Pacific commander Gen. Charles Flynn said.

“What you’re witnessing here today is really operationalizing everything that our political leaders are talking about from integrated deterrence to campaigning to building an enduring advantage,” Flynn told journalists invited to witness the drills.

U.S. troops also displayed other weapons including sniper rifles with night-vision scopes that could hit targets more than a kilometer (half a

mile) away with high precision, and High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, which are rocket and missile launchers that have been used by Ukrainian forces against Russia.

Philippine army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Brawner said the Philippine military wants to acquire Javelins and HIMARS from the United States under a special foreign military sales arrangement that is part of efforts to modernize the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

It’s uncertain when the Phil-ippines can secure such weapons while Ukraine presses the U.S. and other Western nations for more military assistance, he said.

“These weapon systems are relatively more affordable for us as we shift to external defense,” Brawner said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

S. Korea repels N. Korean patrol boat after sea intrusion

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea’s military says it fired warning shots to repel a North Korean patrol vessel that temporarily crossed the countries’ disputed western sea boundary while chasing a Chinese fishing boat. The North Korean patrol boat crossed the so-called Northern Limit Line at around 11 a.m. Saturday while pursuing the Chinese boat in waters near South Korea’s Baekryeong island but immediately retreated after a South Korean naval vessel fired warning shots, South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said Sunday.

While there were no exchanges of fire between the North and South Korean vessels, the South Korean high-speed vessel collided with the Chinese boat as it responded to the intrusion amid poor visibility, causing bruises and other minor injuries to some

of the South Korean sailors. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said the South Korean military is closely monitoring North Ko-rean military activities while preparing for various possi-bilities of provocations.

Explosive thrown at Japan PM at campaign event; 1 hurt

WAKAYAMA, Japan (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was evacuated unharmed Saturday after someone threw an explosive device in his direction while he was campaigning at a fishing port in western Japan, officials said. Police wrestled a suspect to the ground as screaming by-standers scrambled to get away and smoke filled the air. One police officer was slightly hurt and Kishida continued cam-paigning Saturday, but the cha-otic scene was reminiscent of the assassination nine months ago of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, which also came on a campaign tour and contin-

ues to reverberate in Japanese politics. Kishida was visiting Saikazaki port in Wakayama prefecture to support his ruling party’s candidate in a local elec-tion, and the explosion occurred just before he was to begin his speech. A young man believed to be a suspect was arrested Saturday at the scene after he allegedly threw “the suspicious object,” Chief Cabinet Secre-tary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters. Matsuno refused to comment on the suspect’s mo-tive and background, saying police are still investigating. TV footage shows Kishida standing with his back to the crowd. His security detail suddenly points to the ground near him, and the prime minister whips around, looking alarmed. The camera quickly turns to the crowd just as several people, including uni-formed and plainclothes police officers, converge on a young man wearing a white surgical mask and holding what appears to be another device, a long silver tube.

World

NATO member Finland breaks ground on Russia border fence

IMATRA, Finland (AP)—The construction of barbed-wired fence along Finland’s long border with Russia—primarily meant to curb illegal migration—has broken ground near the southeastern town of Imatra less than two weeks after the Nordic country joined NATO as the 31st member of the military alliance.

The Finnish Border Guard on Friday showcased the build-ing of the initial three kilometer (1.8 mile) stretch of the fence to be erected in Pelkola near

a crossing point off Imatra, a quiet lakeside town of some 25,000 people.

Finland’s 1,340 kilometer (832 mile) border with Russia is the longest of any European Union member.

Construction of the border fence is an initiative by the bor-der guard that was approved by Prime Minister Sanna Marin’s government amid wide politi-cal support last year. The main purpose of the three-meter (10-foot) high steel fence with a barbed-wire extension on top is

to prevent illegal immigration from Russia and give reaction time to authorities, Finnish bor-der officials say.

In 2015-2016, Moscow at-tempted to influence Finland by organizing large numbers of asylum-seekers to northern Finnish crossing points in the Arctic Lapland region. Russian authorities were seen delib-erately ushering thousands of asylum-seekers - mostly from Iraq, Afghanistan and other Middle East nations - to those border crossing points.

Germany switches off its last nuclear plants

BERLIN (AP)—“Nuclear power, no thanks!”

What was once a slogan found on the bumper of many a German car became a real-ity Saturday, as the country shut down its three remaining nuclear power plants in line with a long-planned transition toward renewable energy.

The shutdown of Emsland, Neckarwestheim II and Isar II shortly before midnight was

cheered earlier in the day by anti-nuclear campaigners out-side the three reactors and at rallies in Berlin and Munich. Inside the plants, staff held more somber ceremonies to mark the occasion.

Decades of anti-nuclear protests in Germany, stoked by disasters at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima, had put pressure on successive governments to end the use of

a technology that critics argue is unsafe and unsustainable.

But with other industrial-ized countries, such as the United States, Japan, China, France and Britain, counting on nuclear energy to replace planet-warming fossil fuels, Germany’s decision to stop us-ing both has drawn skepticism at home and abroad, as well as unsuccessful last-minute calls to halt the decision.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

† Gonzalo Marcelo Dlg. Pangelinan

April 9, 1947 – April 6, 2023

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents:	† Joaquin B. Pangelinan † Magdalena DLG. Pangelinan
Brother:	† Edward DLG. Pangelinan
Son:	† Andrew J. Pangelinan

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife:	Priscilla J. Pangelinan
Son:	Marvin Anthony J./Mightee Pangelinan and children (Dani and Oliver)
Siblings:	Angelina P. Borja and family Pedro DLG. Pangelinan and family Erminia P. Leon Guerrero and family Alejandro G. Pangelinan and family

Mass is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm and followed by the Rosary at 7:00 pm.

On Monday, April 17, 2023, funeral service will be held. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 10:00 am followed by interment service.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

From The Family

Health & Wellness

What does the end of the public health emergency for COVID really mean?

By ARIEL HART, HELENA OLIVIERO
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

When does the COVID-19 pandemic end?

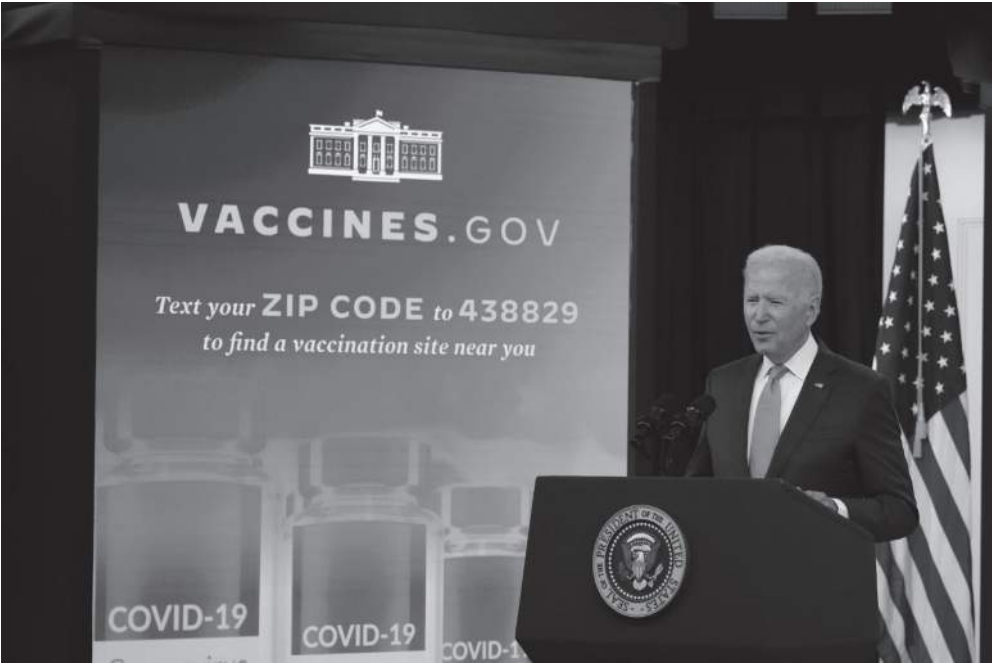
Epidemiologists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may have one answer. Restaurant-goers on Peachtree Street surely have another. And so do people who are at high risk of severe sickness or death as COVID continues to circulate.

“I don’t know when we can say the pandemic is definitively over,” said Jen Kates, vice president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, a health research nonprofit. “There’s a symbolic aspect to it, there’s a political aspect to it, and there’s a practical aspect... I think the reality is, we are at a very different place.”

Many aspects of the special public health measures are ending but that doesn’t mean COVID is over.

Close to 1.13 million people in the U.S. have died from COVID-19 over the last three years, according to the CDC, including 1,773 people in the week ending April 5. In Georgia, there have been 35,264 confirmed COVID deaths, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health.

President Joe Biden signed legislation Monday to end on May 11 the U.S. public health emergency for COVID, which had been declared by President Trump



In this photo from Aug. 23, 2021, U.S. President Joe Biden speaks about COVID-19 vaccines in the South Court Auditorium at the White House complex in Washington, DC.

in March 2020 to free up federal funds and resources to combat the pandemic. The federal health emergency was initiated in January 2020 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and renewed every 90 days.

The emergency declaration gave sweeping powers to the government to free up funding, waive laws and lift regulations on medicine, housing, production, insurance and other facets of business and daily life in order to get through the pandemic.

Some of those emergency measures are now being un-

wound while others have already been phased out. Among the changes: The Department of Housing and Urban Development’s COVID mortgage forbearance program is set to end at the end of May. A Trump-era policy giving border agents the power to turn away migrants without legal process is also set to end next month.

Here’s more on the historic emergency declarations and what they mean. Experts also weigh in on the state of the pandemic as it crosses the three-year mark.

Paying more for COVID services

Under the pandemic emergencies, the federal government bought millions of COVID tests, doses of vaccines and antiviral treatments, and distributed them to doctors and medical facilities so patients could get them for free. Now the stockpile is running out, and Congress has stopped funding it.

Whenever it runs dry, the government is going to let insurance and the health market take over. People without insurance will have to pay for these tests, vaccines and antiviral medications. Private insurance, including Medicare Advantage plans, will have to make most things free or accessible.

Under the emergency provisions, if a Medicare patient was diagnosed with COVID-19 and needed hospitalization, the Medicare payment to the hospital was increased by 20% to reflect the additional costs of treating a patient with COVID-19. That 20% increase ends when the public health emergency ends.

At-home COVID tests

Many people will have to pay full price for over-the-counter test kits.

After May 11, people with traditional Medicare will no longer receive free, at-home tests.

—Those with private insurance, including Medicare Advantage, no longer will be guaranteed free at-home tests, but some insurers may continue to voluntarily cover them.

—For those on Medicaid, at-home tests will be covered at no cost through September 2024. After that date, state Medicaid programs will decide whether to continue coverage.

Treatments

—After the federal stockpile runs out, many private insurers will continue to cover the antiviral COVID treatment Paxlovid, although patients may be asked for a copayment.

—Medicare beneficiaries will face cost-sharing for most COVID treatments.

—Medicaid and CHIP programs will continue to cover all pharmaceutical treatments at no cost through September 2024. After that date, these treatments will continue to be covered; however, states including Georgia may impose utilization limits and nominal cost-sharing.

Vaccines

—Under the Affordable Care Act and other recent legislation, even after the federal supply of vaccines is gone, vaccines will continue to be free of charge to the vast majority of people with private and public insurance.

—People who don’t have insurance will need to either pay the full cost out-of-pocket or seek charity, such

as pharmaceutical companies that might decide to provide the drugs at a reduced cost to safety-net clinics. The pharma companies are expected to set vaccine prices at \$100 or more, and public health experts are concerned that this population will not afford to get vaccinated, both endangering them and undermining general COVID control.

Telehealth

Telehealth usage exploded during the pandemic. The health tech industry was just emerging with useful internet tools; at the same time, the government loosened restrictions on which services can use it and whether insurance can pay for it, such as allowing physical therapists to treat patients by telehealth and be reimbursed by Medicare.

—During the pandemic, doctors have been allowed to remotely prescribe controlled substances like pain medication. But on May 11, some patients will once again be required to visit their doctor in person to get that prescription.

—With other medical services—such as physical therapy and even emergency room visits—government and health officials are reassessing whether to revert to stricter regulations like before or make the flexibility permanent. For the moment, some medical services can still be provided remotely. For those covered by Medicare, these services are allowed through the end of 2023.

COVID-19 data

Data collection is different now. It’s harder to know how many people are infected because of the widespread transition to at-home tests, which aren’t publicly recorded. But new tools are emerging in fits and starts, such as wastewater surveillance.

—Several organizations that also fought the pandemic with up-to-date science and data on the spread and impacts of the coronavirus are pulling back on daily updates or winding down. The White House COVID task force is set to disband. This is the body that watched the science, guided the response and held briefings for reporters across the nation.

—After more than two years of publishing daily data on COVID cases, hospitalizations and deaths, the agency announced last October it was shifting to weekly updates to tracking the virus. An interactive county map continues to show local levels of COVID,

combining case and hospitalization data to determine the current impact of the virus on communities.

Re-applying for government assistance

—Government assistance programs like food stamps, known as SNAP; Medicaid, and others have not been re-verifying people’s eligibility upon enrollment. But now they’re starting to verify eligibility again.

The new abnormal

Some pandemics don’t really end, they shift. In technical terms, the disease becomes “endemic”—more stable or manageable while persisting in a population or region.

But while COVID is no longer causing severe disruption to the point of closing schools or businesses, the virus is still killing hundreds of people every day—and requiring hospitalizations—with the oldest and more medically fragile patients most at risk.

Overall, the numbers of COVID cases are down sharply. The deaths reported in Georgia continue to sink to all-time lows. Georgia reported 1,670 laboratory-confirmed COVID cases, and 46 COVID-related deaths in the week ending April 5, the most recent data available.

“I would describe the current state as low-level, manageable endemicity. And I think that was, either overtly for some, or covertly for others, the real goal,” said Dr. Richard Rothenberg, Regents’ Professor Emeritus in the School of Public Health at Georgia State University, also an associate editor at the journal Global Epidemiology.

How should people respond to the latest COVID numbers?

“Whatever we say, most people assume it’s gone and act accordingly,” said Rothenberg. Small increases, which would likely be clustered, would probably not change things much, he said, but a new, substantially different variant could create “major problems.”

Rothenberg, who is 81, only wears a mask at medical facilities now, as required. He’s had the primary vaccine series and two boosters. He had COVID in August, a mild case but, he added, “not a disease you want to have.” Were there to be a resurgence, he said, the main thing he would do is go back to mask-wearing and hope for an effective new booster.

Healthy Living

Darker honey, more antioxidants

The amount of cell-protecting antioxidants in honey varies depending on the flower species from which it is made.

Source: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, National Honey Board (U.S.), TNS Photo Service

Buckwheat	Tupelo	Blueberry	Clover	Alfalfa
Highest (dark)		Lowest (light)		

Life & Style

Actor Drake Bell found safe after being declared missing

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Jared “Drake” Bell, an actor best known as a star of the Nickelodeon television show “Drake & Josh,” was found safe on Thursday, hours after authorities in Florida said he was “missing and endangered.”

Bell was in touch with police officers and wasn’t in danger,

Daytona Beach Police Department spokesperson Carrie McCallister said in an email, without providing further details.

“At this time we can confirm law enforcement officials are in contact and Mr. Bell is safe,” McCallister said.

McCallister referred requests for further details to the Orange County Sheriff’s Of-

fice in Orlando, which didn’t respond to an emailed message.

Hours earlier, the police department put out a statement declaring Bell “missing and endangered” and asked the public for help in locating him.

Before being found mid-day



Bell

Thursday, Bell was last seen Wednesday night near a Daytona Beach high school.

Representatives for the 36-year-old actor did not immediately reply to The Associated Press’ requests for comment.

Bell began acting as a child and was catapulted to fame

as a teen with Nickelodeon’s “The Amanda Show” and later “Drake & Josh.” The Nickelodeon show starring Bell and Josh Peck ran from 2004 until 2007, and was accompanied by two movies. Since then, Bell has mostly worked as a voice actor in addition to roles in little-seen TV series and movies. He also launched a music career.

In 2021, Bell was charged with child endangerment re-

lating to a girl who attended a 2017 concert of his in Cleveland when she was 15 and had met him online years before. He pleaded guilty to felony attempted child endangerment and a misdemeanor charge of disseminating matter harmful to juveniles and was sentenced to two years’ probation and 200 hours of community service in California.

Clint Eastwood set to direct ‘Juror No. 2’ for Warner Bros.

NEW YORK (AP)—Clint Eastwood is getting back in the director’s chair.

The “Unforgiven” and “Gran Torino” filmmaker is set to direct the legal drama “Juror No. 2” for his longtime studio, Warner Bros., a person close to the production who requested anonymity because she wasn’t authorized to

comment publicly confirmed Friday.

The film will be Eastwood’s first since 2021’s neo-Western “Cry Macho,” which also marked his return to the screen as an actor. With production on “Juror No. 2” to begin in June, Eastwood will be 93 when he



Eastwood

steps on set.

Nicholas Hoult and Toni Collette are in early talks to potentially star in the film, written by Jonathan Abrams, about a murder trial wherein a juror discovers he may have played a role in the victim’s death.

Biden taps Gaga, Clooney, Garner, others for arts committee

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House on Thursday announced a star-studded slate of members for the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, a panel of artists, museum professionals, academics and philanthropists that serves as an advisory board to President Joe Biden on culture issues.

The group will be co-chaired by Bruce Cohen, an Academy Award-winning producer known for films such as “American Beauty” and “Silver Linings Playbook,” and pop megastar and Grammy Award winner Lady Gaga, also known as Stefani Germanotta, according to the White House.

Others tapped to the commit-

tee include musician Jon Batiste, who performed at the White House state dinner in honor of French President Emmanuel Macron in December, television producer Shonda Rhimes, Grammy Award winner Joe Walsh, and actors George Clooney, Jennifer Garner, Troy Kotsur and Kerry Washington. It also includes one former

In an interview in 2014 with The Associated Press, Eastwood, said the reason for his career longevity was that “I never let the old man in.”

“There are so many different stories to tell out there,” said Eastwood. “You can be 21 or 81. ...If you tell yourself, ‘I’m too old to do that—bulls—. You’re not too old to do anything.’”

member of Congress: Democrat Steve Israel, who represented New York in the House.

Tsione Wolde-Michael, the committee’s executive director, says it is “positioned to do meaningful work that will positively impact the arts, libraries, museums, and public humanities work in communities across the country.”

‘Schwarzenegger repaired utility trench, not a pothole’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The “giant pothole” that Arnold Schwarzenegger said he recently filled on a street in his Los Angeles neighborhood was actually a trench that had been dug for utility work, according to the city.

Southern California Gas Co. had covered the trench with temporary asphalt that was to be replaced with a permanent surface, the Los Angeles Department of Public Works said in a statement.

“We have notified the Gas Company of the issue and the need for them to maintain the site pavement until their permanent paving is construct-

ed,” the statement said.

After months of heavy rains that have turned roads into tire-popping swiss cheese for many commuters, Schwarzenegger struck a chord when he released a video of himself and a crew filling a depression on a street with packaged asphalt patch.

“Today, after the whole neighborhood has been upset about this giant pothole that’s been screwing up cars and bicycles for weeks, I went out with my team and fixed it,” he wrote on Twitter. “I always say, let’s not complain, let’s do something about it. Here you go.”

Guitarist Mark Sheehan of Irish band The Script dies at 46

LONDON (AP)—Ireland’s president has led tributes to Mark Sheehan, guitarist with Irish rock band The Script, after his death at the age of 46.

The band said Sheehan died in a hospital on Friday after a brief illness. In a statement, The Script called him a “much loved

husband, father, brother, band mate and friend.”

Formed in Dublin in 2001 by Sheehan, singer Danny O’Donoghue and drummer Glen Power, The Script topped U.K. and Irish charts with its self-titled debut album in 2008. It included the hits “We Cry,”

“Breakeven” and “The Man Who Can’t Be Moved,” which reached No. 1 in five countries.

The band’s pop-inflected rock sound made it one of Ireland’s biggest bands in the 2010s. The Script went on to have six Top 10 albums in the U.K. and one top three album in the U.S.

Irish President Michael D. Higgins praised the band’s “originality and excellence” and sent condolences to Sheehan’s family.

Band members from The Script, Mark Sheehan, left, Danny O’Donoghue, center, and Glen Power pose for a portrait, Friday, May 29, 2009 in New York.



Recovering addict seen smoking weed on camera

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I have been together for six years. We are in our late 40s. He’s a recovering alcoholic and former drug user from his late teens into his early 20s. He hasn’t touched drugs for 21 years. He often talked to people about his recovery, and I was beyond proud of him.

I recently saw something that broke my heart. My neighbor has a security camera. I went over to check on him and he asked me to look at the camera he has for fear of strangers coming up to his door. My heart began to race as I saw my fiance in the background of the video smoking something. I watched the video at least 20 times and there he was, smoking a blunt! I was so shocked and disappointed that it took me an hour before I could text him.

I sent him a clip of the video and asked how he could fall off the wagon and be so sneaky about it. I am no longer sure I want to marry him because -- what’s next? Alcohol, more drugs? My father was an alcoholic, and I always told myself I would never marry one. Should I call off the wedding and end the relationship? I am so angry I cannot breathe. What makes someone fall off the wagon after 20 years of being sober?

BREAKING HEART IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR BREAKING HEART: You have my sympathy. Recovery is not a destination. It is something that must be practiced every day, which is why substance abusers

attend 12-step programs. It’s not uncommon for them to have occasional lapses, which appears to be what has happened with your fiance. He’s sneaking because he knows you would react as you have.

Have you been to a meeting of a support group for friends and family of addicts in recovery? If not, go now! (Visit nar-anon.org for information.) Whether you should break the engagement and move on is something only you can decide, but if you attend some of those meetings, you will gain insight into your future.

P.S. I know I will hear from readers telling me marijuana isn’t the “hard stuff” and is even legal in some states. However, the issue I can’t avoid is that he deceived you about what he has been doing, which should tell you he knows it’s wrong.

DEAR ABBY: I was a good mom, staying at home for 17 years. I love my two girls (39 and 45). Both are very heavy. I always struggled with weight, too, but I lost 50 pounds in the last year. They don’t seem to care about their weight issues, and I have a lot of guilt about it. They are hard to talk to (they say I’m “too critical”), so I don’t say much. I don’t know how to handle this situation. It breaks my heart. Please advise.

GUILTY MOM IN ARIZONA

DEAR GUILTY: Your daughters are sensitive about

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



their weight. Recognize that the topic is off the table. They are both adults, so resist the urge to “correct” them. You can lead by example, and taking off those extra pounds was a good start. Accept that you cannot live your daughters’ lives for them. Concentrate on your own and you will all be happier.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Brunson, Randle push Knicks past Cavaliers in Game 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—Julius Randle joked about being out of shape and Josh Hart walked into the post-game news conference wearing a T-shirt with a photo of teammate Jalen Brunson on the front.

The Knicks could finally relax.

Finally at full strength, and following a worrisome few weeks, New York's season looks much brighter.

Brunson shook off foul trouble and scored 21 of his 27 points in the second half, Randle returned from an ankle injury to add 19 — and a critical final rebound — and the Knicks welcomed Cleveland back to the NBA playoffs by holding off the Cavaliers 101-97 on Saturday night in Game 1.

Brunson was limited to nine minutes in the first half, but hit several big shots down the stretch as the Knicks turned back Cleveland's late rally led by All-Star Donovan Mitchell, who finished with 38 points.

With the Knicks clinging to a 99-97 lead, Brunson missed a pullup with nine seconds left and Randle bailed out New York with his 10th rebound — and the team's 17th offensive board — that led to Quentin Grimes making two free throws to seal the win.

"You can't say enough about the monster rebound Julius made at the end," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "That rebound was huge. Huge."

Randle hadn't played since March 29 because of a sprained left ankle, and said he was thankful he had enough energy for one last jump.

"You see me breathing out there today?" said Randle, who played 34 minutes. "I was tired as hell. But it was just about winning at that point."

Randle was reminded that the Knicks had a similar play in Game 1 against Atlanta in 2021 but didn't come up with the ball.

"Funny how things turn, right," he said.

Game 2 is Tuesday at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse.

Mitchell scored 14 points in the fourth, but it wasn't enough for the young Cavs, who disappointed a raucous, towel-waving Cleveland crowd that hadn't seen a playoff game since the 2018 NBA Finals.

It's been a long road back for Cleveland, which wasn't as hurt by its inexperience as lack of production from the bench.

"First off, this isn't the end



New York Knicks' Julius Randle (30) shoots against Cleveland Cavaliers' Jarrett Allen (31) during the second half of Game 1 in a first-round NBA basketball playoffs series Saturday, April 15, 2023, in Cleveland.

of the world. We got to get one right back," Mitchell said. "There's no room to sit here and feel sorry or feel upset and get down. It's one game. We will respond."

Hart added 17 points — and hit a big 3-pointer down the stretch — and 10 rebounds in his playoff debut for New York, whose reserves outscored the Cavs 37-14.

Darius Garland scored 17 points and Jarrett Allen had 14 points and 14 rebounds for Cleveland. Evan Mobley had eight points of 4-of-13 shooting.

Randle missed New York's final five games after rolling his ankle on March 29, and the injury threatened to thwart New York's playoff hopes. However, he improved this week despite not taking much contact in practice and looked like himself from the outset.

His presence lifted the Knicks.

"Seeing No. 30 out there was just a great sight," said Obi Toppin, who scored nine points in the third quarter.

Brunson picked up his second foul with 7:52 left in the first quarter, and Thibodeau had no choice but to replace the guard, who scored a career-high 48 points against the Cavs on March 31 — the first game Randle missed.

Brunson's foul trouble had Hart concerned he made a poor fashion choice.

"I told him I was going to wear it at some point," Hart said. "Then he gets into foul trouble the day I wear it, so I'm going to go burn it and never wear it again."

The Cavs didn't take advantage with Brunson out as New York reeled off 10

straight points and led 30-24 after one.

Brunson was back on the bench with his third foul midway through the second. Again, Cleveland failed to capitalize and the Knicks led 50-45 at half.

Kings 126, Warriors 123

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—De'Aaron Fox finished off a dazzling playoff debut that was years in the making and had one more task to do.

With the home crowd counting down following an exhilarating return to the postseason, Fox pressed the button and lit the ceremonial beam, letting out 17 seasons of frustration for Sacramento.

"Sacramento showed out tonight," Fox said. "But doing this for the fans, just knowing the way that they support this team through thick and thin — really thin. It's just a testament to the way they are."

Fox was the biggest reason why, scoring 38 points to tie for the second highest playoff debut in NBA history to lead the Kings to a 126-123 victory over the defending-champion Golden State Warriors on Saturday night.

Fox scored 29 points in the second half after taking time to adjust to the playoff physicality and hit the 3-pointer that gave Sacramento the lead for good late in the fourth quarter.

Fox took until his sixth season to reach the postseason stage but announced himself as a star as only Luka Dončić scored more points in a playoff debut with 42 against Dallas three years ago.

"You need guys like that on your side because they know everything that we're throwing at them," coach Mike Brown said. "There's no secrets. You have to have guys on your team that can go make plays and Foxy went and made plays tonight."

The first playoff meeting between the Northern California neighbors lived up to the hype and delighted the raucous crowd that had been waiting for a playoff game since 2006.

The inexperienced Kings closed the game strong against a Warriors team that won four titles in the previous eight seasons.

After Stephen Curry hit a corner 3-pointer to give Golden State a 114-112 lead with about four minutes left, the Kings responded with seven in a row starting with a 3-pointer from Fox.

The Warriors didn't go away and cut the deficit to one on a layup by Curry in the final minute. But Andrew Wiggins missed a corner 3 for the lead in the closing seconds of his first game in more than two months.

"That last one felt amazing," Wiggins said of the last shot. "Only up from here. ... I'm here to compete and I believe in myself."

Malik Monk made two free throws to make it 126-123 with 2.9 seconds left. Curry missed a runner from 3 at the buzzer, giving the Kings their first playoff win since April 30, 2006, against San Antonio.

"That first game is kind of a feeling out process," Curry said. "We responded. That's what we are capable of doing. It was a high energy game from start to finish."

Monk finished with 32 points off the bench and Domantas Sabonis had 12 points and 16 rebounds.

Curry led the Warriors with 30 points, Klay Thompson added 21 and Wiggins and Poole scored 18 apiece.

Celtics 112, Hawks 99

BOSTON (AP)—After an opener that went from rout to flirting with catastrophe, the Boston Celtics got both a win and an early reminder of how lulls could spell doom in the playoffs.

Jaylen Brown had 29 points and 12 rebounds, and the Celtics capitalized on a woeful shooting performance by the Atlanta Hawks to hold on for 112-99 victory in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference first-round matchup on Saturday.

Jayson Tatum scored 25 points, 21 in the first half. Derrick White finished with 25 points and 11 rebounds for Boston, which hosts Game 2 on Tuesday.

"We expect to get their best shot," Brown said. "We let them get a little more comfortable in the second half, so I expect the next game for them to be a little more prepared. So we've got to be a little more prepared as well."

It was Brown's first game since missing the final two of the regular season with a cut on a finger on his shooting hand. He played with tape and wrap.

He played through pain, hitting on 12 of 23 field goal attempts, but had six turnovers. He said it as hard to grip the ball and his hand "split open" at one point. It will be examined Sunday.

The No. 2-seeded Celtics led by as many as 32 points, pouncing on an Atlanta team that missed its first 10 3-point attempts and shot 5 of 29 from beyond the arc for the game.

Atlanta used a 32-12 run to cut the deficit to 96-84 on a three-point play by Bogdan Bogdanovic early in the fourth.

The Celtics got the lead back up to 107-87. It was 110-97 with less than two minutes to play when Atlanta's De'Andre Hunter got free on fast break. But his layup attempt was blocked by Marcus Smart.

"Human nature plays a part. But we don't want things like that to haunt us," Tatum said.

Smart, last season's NBA Defensive Player of Year, finished with three steals and two blocks.

Dejounte Murray led the Hawks with 24 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Trae Young added 16 points.

76ers 121, Nets 101

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—James Harden feels more at home in Philly this postseason go-around than he did a year ago when he was still finding his footing after a trade. It helps that The Beard knows his role alongside Joel Embiid, has his health — and his signature step-back is back on point from beyond the arc.

"He's confident in how we play now," coach Doc Rivers said. "Last year, even when he was playing, it was, am I doing the right thing here?"

Harden had all the right moves against the Nets.

Harden hit seven 3-pointers and had 23 points and 13 assists, NBA MVP finalist Embiid scored 26 points and the Philadelphia 76ers pushed back Mikal Bridges and the Brooklyn Nets in a 121-101 Game 1 victory on Saturday.

Tobias Harris added 21 points and the 76ers hit a postseason team-record 21 3s in the opener of this Eastern Conference playoff series. The Sixers are trying to win their first NBA championship since 1983 and advance past the second round for the first time since 2001.

The No. 3-seeded 76ers host Game 2 on Monday.

Bridges scored 30 points and helped the Nets at least hang around in the first half.

But Brooklyn's starless roster was no match for Embiid, Harden and a play-off-tested roster expected to make a deep run in the postseason. The Sixers had a sellout crowd of 20,913 in a frenzy from the opening tip, then blew the game open in the fourth.

Philly got it done even without a vintage effort from Embiid.

Embiid made only 7 of 15 shots (and all 11 free throws) and was flustered at times against double-teams that followed him all over the court. Embiid was smacked in the face on a missed dunk that sent him crashing to the court in an attempt to draw a flagrant foul. Embiid got heated when he had his arm locked up by Royce O'Neale and the two briefly tussled.

The off-night from the floor wasn't good enough for Nets coach Jacque Vaughn.

"Hopefully, they'll be calling traveling and 3 seconds on the big fella the next game," Vaughn said.

No worries for the Sixers, though. Harden, who topped the league in assists this season, picked up the slack and stuck it to the Nets with his step-back 3s.

Late heroics from McCutchen, Cabrera lift Pirates, Tigers



ST. LOUIS (AP)—Andrew McCutchen hit a tie-breaking, two-run homer in the 10th inning and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the St. Louis Cardinals 6-3 on Saturday.

McCutchen hit a 3-2 pitch from Jordan Hicks (0-1) over the left field wall for his third home run of the season to leadoff the 10th.

David Bednar (2-0) pitched a scoreless ninth inning, and Dauri Moreta worked around a leadoff walk in the 10th to earn his first save of the season. Roansy Contreras allowed two runs on six hits in becoming the fifth straight Pirates' starter to work into the sixth inning.

Cardinals starter Steven Matz allowed two runs on three hits in 5 2/3 innings while walking five batters and striking out six.

TIGERS 7, GIANTS 6, 11 INNINGS

DETROIT (AP)—Miguel Cabrera's walk-off single in the 11th inning capped Detroit's rally from a five-run deficit to beat San Francisco.

Taylor Rogers (0-2) started the 11th with a wild pitch, which moved Spencer Torkelson to third. Cabrera's bouncer up the middle was his 3,095th career hit and scored Torkelson.

Chasen Shreve (1-1) got the win, with five Detroit relievers combining to pitch seven shut-out innings.

The Tigers trailed 6-1 after three innings and were still down 6-3 in the eighth, but Nick Maton singled off John Brebbia and Riley Greene walked. Javier Báez fouled off six two-strike pitches before hitting a two-run double to make it 6-5 and brought Sean Hjelle out of the Giants bullpen. Kerry Carpenter's deep fly to right moved Baez to third, and Torkelson's flare over the drawn-in infield tied the game.

Giants starter Anthony DeSclafani allowed three runs, two of them earned, on six hits in 6 2/3 innings.

BLUE JAYS 5, RAYS 2

TORONTO (AP)—Yusei Kikuchi struck out a season-high nine over six innings, Danny Jansen had two hits and an RBI and Toronto again beat Tampa Bay.

Alejandro Kirk reached base four times, scored once and drove in a run. Kikuchi (2-0) allowed one run and four hits, improving to 4-0 with a 1.80 ERA in six career games against Tampa Bay. Closer Jordan Romano earned his league-leading sixth save in seven chances.

Taylor Walls homered for the Rays, who have connected at least once in all 15 games this season. Only Seattle (20 games in 2019) began a season with a longer streak.

In his first big league start, Rays right-hander Calvin Faucher allowed one run and two hits in 2 2/3 innings.

BRAVES 9, ROYALS 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Sean Murphy homered among his three hits and drove in four runs, Ozzie Albies also had four RBIs, and Atlanta beat Kansas City.

Murphy had RBI doubles in the first and third innings, a solo homer in the fifth and a bases-loaded walk in the eighth. The homer went 395 feet over the left field fence for his third of the season and his second consecutive game. Albies had a two-run double in the third inning opening up a four-run lead early in the game. In the eighth inning, he singled in two more runs to put the game out of reach.

PADRES 10, BREWERS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Jake Cronenworth had his first career multi-homer game with two two-run shots and drove in a career-high six runs as San Diego beat the NL Central-leading Milwaukee Brewers to snap a three-game losing streak.

In a scary moment in the eighth, Brewers reliever Gus Varland was hit on the jaw by a 105.1 mph line drive by Manny Machado and came out of the game. The impact knocked Varland to the ground and he woozily stood up and dropped his glove as two teammates and a trainer rushed to his side. He went down on his knees as he was tended to and then walked off the field with two trainers.

Cronenworth hit a tiebreaking shot off the top of the right field wall with two outs in the fifth inning off Freddy Peralta (2-1) and then connected to center field with one out in the seventh off Hoby Milner. Cronenworth and Nelson Cruz drew consecutive bases-loaded walks in the eighth after Javy Guerra replaced Varland.

YANKEES 6, TWINS 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Domingo Germán retired his first 16 batters and New York beat Minnesota.

Kyle Higashioka and Anthony Rizzo homered and Giancarlo Stanton had a two-run double for the Yankees, which rebounded from their first consecutive losses this season and stopped the Twins' four-game winning streak.

Germán (1-1) didn't allow a hit until his 66th pitch when



Pittsburgh Pirates players celebrate defeating the St. Louis Cardinals in a baseball game Saturday, April 15, 2023, in St. Louis.

Christian Vázquez singled up the middle on a fastball with a 2-1 count. He struck out a career-high 11, walked none and gave up one run and three hits in 6 1/3 innings.

ASTROS 8, RANGERS 2

HOUSTON (AP)—Yordan Alvarez doubled with three RBIs to back up a strong start by rookie Hunter Brown and help Houston come back to Texas.

Alvarez tied the game with a two-RBI double in the third, and his bases-loaded walk started the scoring in a five-run seventh that pushed the lead to 8-2.

Brown (2-0) allowed five hits and two runs—none earned—with five strikeouts in seven innings to lower his ERA to 1.93.

The Rangers took an early lead thanks to a miscue by Houston. Robbie Grossman reached to start the second on an error by Mauricio Dubón, when he overthrew first base.

DODGERS 2, CUBS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Peralta hit a walk-off two-run single and Los Angeles rallied for their first walk-off win of the season.

Miguel Vargas beat out Seiya Suzuki's throw to home plate on a ground ball single to short right by Peralta.

Shelby Miller (1-0) got the win after Michael Grove gave up one run, two hits and two walks in 5 2/3 innings.

Patrick Wisdom hit a home run, and the Cubs wasted five scoreless innings from Jameson Taillon. Michael Fulmer (0-1) gave up a single to James Outman, a double to Vargas and pinch-hitter Peralta's winning hit.

METS 3, ATHLETICS 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Mark Canha homered leading off the seventh inning and Brandon Nimmo followed with an RBI double with two out that scored pinch-runner Tim Lincecum as the New York Mets rallied to beat Oakland.

Pete Alonso hit his seventh home run for the Mets. The solo drive off A's starter Shintaro Fujinami (0-3) in the fourth was the 153rd of Alonso's career and his 87th in a road game.

Fujinami allowed three runs and four hits with five strikeouts over six innings, lowering his ERA from 17.55 to 11.37.

GUARDIANS 6, NATIONALS 4

WASHINGTON (AP)—José Ramírez drove his first homer of the season into the second deck for a two-run, go-ahead shot in the fifth inning and the Cleveland Guardians erased a deficit for the second consecutive game.

After a rain delay of 1 hour, 40 minutes at the outset, Washington went ahead 3-0 in the first inning off Zach Plesac, with the help of a throwing error by third baseman Ramírez and run-scoring hits by Keibert Ruiz, Jeimer Candelario and Joey Meneses. Ruiz finished with three hits and two RBIs.

Plesac (1-0) would end up going five innings and giving up four runs, two earned.

MARLINS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 2

MIAMI (AP)—Luis Arraez hit a tiebreaking pinch-hit single in the seventh inning and Miami rallied to win their fourth straight.

Avisail García had two hits and Garrett Hampson hom-

ered for the Marlins.

Scott McHugh (0-2) relieved Arizona starter Ryne Nelson to start the seventh and allowed García's leadoff double. Nelson allowed one run and five hits and struck out four in six innings.

Gabriel Moreno's RBI single in the top half put the Diamondbacks ahead. Corbin Carroll hit a leadoff double against Matt Barnes and advanced on a balk by the Marlins reliever.

WHITE SOX 7, ORIOLES 6, 10 INNINGS

CHICAGO (AP)—Yasmani Grandal tied the game in the 10th inning with a bloop RBI double, and Óscar Colás followed it with an RBI single to lift Chicago over Baltimore.

White Sox reliever Jimmy Lambert (1-0) picked up the win, despite allowing an unearned run in the ninth.

Baltimore scored in the top of the 10th, with Jorge Mateo leading off with a sacrifice bunt to move Terin Vavra to third and Adley Rutschmann beating out a potential double play to score Vavra.

But Grandal's double off reliever Logan Gillaspie (0-1) started something for Chicago. Jake Burger singled, and Colás scored pinch-runner Seby Zavala with his single.

RED SOX 9, ANGLES 7

BOSTON (AP)—Yu Chang snapped an 0-for-28 drought with a two-run homer and delivered a go-ahead, two-run single after Los Angeles' Matt Thaiss was called for his second catcher's interference in the eighth inning, lifting Boston to a comeback win over the Angels.

Rafael Devers added his

seventh homer, a two-run shot, and Rob Refsnyder drove in two runs for Boston.

Gio Urshela hit a grand slam and drove in five runs and Mike Trout added three hits with his 300th career double for the Angels. Shohei Ohtani had two singles, extending his on-base streak to 36 games, the majors' longest current active stretch.

Thaiss had his catcher's interferences in three batters to help Boston load the bases in the eighth against Ryan Tepera (1-1). Tepera walked Refsnyder with the bases loaded.

REDS 13, PHILLIES 0

CINCINNATI (AP)—Wil Myers went 4 for 5 with two home runs, and Cincinnati rode a stout pitching performance by Graham Ashcraft to shut out Philadelphia.

Ashcraft (2-0) allowed just four hits in six scoreless innings to stay perfect on the young season.

Myers tagged Philadelphia starter Matt Strahm (1-1) with a home run in the second inning to put Cincinnati on the board first.

Strahm was pulled in the third after throwing just 67 pitches. Strahm had runners on second and third with two outs and Myers coming to the plate.

Myers took the first pitch he saw from reliever Andrew Bellatti 401 feet to center field to put the Reds ahead 4-0.

Myers brought home another runner in the fifth on an RBI-double to left. The two-base hit jump-started a three-run inning for the Reds. Cincinnati piled on five more runs in the eighth.

MARINERS 9, ROCKIES 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Eugenio Suárez started Seattle's big fourth inning with a solo home run, Julio Rodríguez capped it with a three-run triple, and the Mariners won its third straight.

Suárez went opposite field with his second home run of the season as the ball hit the top of the wall and bounded into the crowd. J.P. Crawford added a two-out RBI single later in the inning before Rodríguez electrified the home crowd.

Rodríguez was the last batter Ryan Feltner (0-2) faced. He allowed five hits, walked three and struck out five.

One big inning from Seattle's bats was all George Kirby (1-1) needed, even if the Mariners kept scoring. The right-hander had a shaky second inning, and allowed a one-out double to Jurickson Profar in the third inning, but retired the next 11 batters. He struck out three and walked none.

Pepoy's outlasts Ol'Aces in masters caging

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant averted a complete collapse to beat a determined Ol'Aces crew, 80-

79, in the masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Friday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Leading by 12 points at the start of the fourth and final quarter, Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant was blitzed by Ol'Aces' full-court press and nearly succumbed to their fastbreak attack.

Led by ageless point guard Elias Rangamar, the team from Oleai slowly gnawed at their deficit before grabbing the lead on a short stab by Benny Joab, 77-75, with less than 2 minutes left in the game.

Rangamar then found Derrick Tudela for another easy bucket to give Ol'Aces more breathing room, 79-75, with less than a minute to go.

Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant wasn't finished by a long shot though as Bryan Natividad got free for a 3-pointer on a screen and an assist by Clint Albert to make it 78-79 moments later.

After several fruitless attempts by Ol'Aces, Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant got the rebound and Natividad drove to the basket before dishing it off to a wide open Mike Mamaril who calmly banked the shot in for an improbable 80-79 lead.

Ol'Aces had several chances to take back the lead with 17 seconds left in the game, but Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant players kept tapping the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant players are all smiles after nipping Ol'Aces, 80-79, in the masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Friday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

ball out with the last loose ball going out of bounds as time expired.

Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant took the initiative early, buoyed by the hot shooting of James Villacrusis they took a 26-18 lead after the first quarter.

Freddie Pelisamen then asserted himself in the second canto, scoring a bunch of fastbreak baskets and pull-up shots to momentarily sway momentum to Ol'Aces.

A last-minute push by Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant, however, gave them a 43-39 lead at the halftime break.

Natividad found his rhythm in the third, knocking a number of triples as Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant controlled the

pace and entered the playoff period up by a dozen.

But that lead proved not safe in the face of Ol'Aces' comeback that was ultimately foiled by Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant own uprising in easily the best game of the young season in the masters division.

Natividad led Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant with 19 points,

while Villacrusis and Mamaril chipped in 18 markers and 13 markers, respectively, for the now 2-1 team.

Pelisamen led all scorers with 33 points with Rangamar adding 13 points for Ol'Aces, which dropped to 2-2.

In the second game, JTM Saipan got 18 points from guard Ryan Bayna and 14

points from center Jonel Broncono to defeat Puerto Rico Bento, 79-75.

After a slow start that saw Puerto Rico Bento lead, 14-11, after the first 10 minutes of play, JTM Saipan took the reins, leading 38-32 and 56-53 in the middle quarters to win its fifth game in six outings.

Puerto Rico Bento, which

absorbed its second loss in four games, was paced by the 21 points of Coby Santos and 15 points of Darryl Foronda.

Last Thursday, Martech-Ol'Aces kept its unbeaten streak at 4-0 after routing now 0-5 Checkpoint International, 71-45, in the open division.

In the masters division, Blue Haus improved to 3-0 following its 78-70 win over Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific, 78-70. The latter dropped to 1-2 in the standings.

First Game

Pepoy's 80 — Natividad 19, Villacrusis 18, Mamaril 13, Camacho 12, Martin 9, Rabago 4, Galulu 2, Mina 2, Ebuen 1.

Ol'Aces 79 — F. Pelisamen 33, Rangamar 13, George 8, Iginoef 6, B. Pelisamen 5, D. Joab 5, Tudela 5, B. Joab 2, Rengul 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-18, 43-39, 67-55, 80-79.

Second Game

JTM Saipan 79 — Bayna 18, Broncano 15, Velasco 10, Rodriguez 7, Ferrer 7, Monteverde 6, Bernardo 6, Ruiz 5, Romo 4, Cruz 2.

Puerto Rico Bento 75 — Santos 21, Forondo 15, Mintac 11, Galang 10, Hipolito 5, Estimado 4, Reyes 3, Leon 3, Antonio 3.

Scoring by quarters: 11-14, 38-32, 56-53, 79-75.

SILDREY

From Page 20

may [he] rest in peace to Jack Kabiriel. I remember his great running form. He was [a] very strong runner in [the] CNMI."

Before the race, participants held a moment of silence as a tribute to the late

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel for two minutes and six seconds—his personal best in the 800m. Kabiriel's 10K personal best was a sub-38 minutes.

Robin Sapong, NMA general secretary, said about the race, "the reason why we brought up this race when the [Saipan Marathon] was

canceled, some of the runners wanted an event... We were hoping to go for a half marathon but there's quite a lot of construction going on down south... So we just held a 10K pretty much for our community to come out and join."

NMA thanked the Commonwealth Healthcare

Corp., Run Saipan, and the Commonwealth Cancer Association, Saipan International School, Department of Public Safety, PDI, CCVI Canoe Federation, The Shack, and volunteers.

Results of the CHCC Oral Cancer Awareness 5K Walk/Run will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

NMIFA

From Page 20

Fatialofa, Ella Ninjin Hall, Alana Hayes, Tamia Kileleman Hix, Vianca Mangulabnan, Cassie and Fiona Regan, and Jacqlene and Vaniqa Torres.

The officials following them on the trip are Luam Khen Koo as head coach, Jer-shwin Angeles and Lalaine Pagarao as assistant coaches, Jireh Yobech as the technical analyst, Mita Michiteru as the head of delegation, Hazel

Mabasa as the team doctor, Catherine Attao as the team manager, and Yu Hung Lee as the assistant team manager.

Jerry Tan, president of the NMIFA gave his remarks and said, "It's a lot of hard work. I come here all the time, especially [in the] evening, I witness the training our boys and girls actually go through on a year round basis... you might get tired of me thanking the parents... But this could not be possible without really the year round support, the weekly support,

coming from the parents—to allow them to play, to train, and allow them to actually really sacrifice a lot, because some of them at their age, they need discipline. So, this is why parents really have a very key role to play in our youth development."

Tan acknowledged how young some of the players are, saying there are 12- to 13-year-old players. "What does that tell me? That tells me that we have a small pool of players. This is why we actually have to include

the younger girls. They really do not belong to this age group, but we include them. We groom them, we give them the opportunity to train with the older girls. So, this is something we all have to work very hard on continuing to commit to our grass roots."

Mita was not present but his remarks were read by Attao, NMIFA executive committee member and chairwoman of the women's committee. A part of his remarks said "Our players

are all homegrown players. They come from our club's grassroots program. This is [a] great achievement by an entire soccer family and I'm very proud to be part of the program. I thank again all your hard work and contributions for NMI soccer development."

For Attao's remarks, she said "on behalf of the women's committee, we're just really excited and grateful for the overall growth of the women's and girls program. And I say that because you guys are defi-

nately the future of soccer..."

"We are so excited because we hope that with your experience that you have an AFC, you're going to bring it back and share it with your clubs, with your teammates and motivate them to continue to grow. You have all the support from our amazing president Jerry and then also all the ex co and our FA family. And so with that, I'm grateful to be able to also be a part of your team, your delegation, and let's go get 'em, go NMI."

SIS

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at 10.28; and Jasiel Mesik from KobES was third with 11.11 seconds.

In the 12U girls 60m Heat 1, Sapalyn Apas from KobES took first at 9.79; Adalee West from SIS took second at 10.25; and Argeanna Flores from OES took third at 10.44 seconds.

Heat 2 was dominated by Julyann Hellson from KobES at 9.95; and second and third was OES' Haelie Edwards at 10.26 and Isabel Carreon at 10.47.

The 9U Boys 200m Heat 1 winner was Gabriel Walsh from at 36.08; second was OES' Jaden Concepcion 37.31; and teammate Jacob Borja at 38.38 seconds.

Heat 2 was led by Carver Gross from SIS at 39.88; Lo-

renzo Deleon Guerrero from SVS was second at 40.80; and Paul Wang from WSR was third at 44.39 seconds.

The 12U boys 200m Heat 1 first place was Ben Hossain at 33.50; Alexander Salundaguit was second at 34.57; Arturo Pangelinan from KobES was third at 40.91; and Chaz Camacho from WSR was fourth at 43.73.

Heat 1 first place in the 9U girls 200m was Scarlett Burrell

at 35.74; second and third was OES' Kaylen Taflinger at 36.76 and Mitchiko Laniyo at 40.31 seconds.

Heat 2 Top 3 were Neveah Arriola at 36.11; Madison Rabauliman from OES at 40.40; and Jasiel Mesik from KobES at 41.64.

The 12U girls 200m Heat 2 Top 3 were KobES' Sapalyn Apas at 35.47; Julyann Hellson at 36.69; and Tristine Deleon Guerrero from

SVS at 36.87.

The 12U boys 800m Top 3 were Keneth Aguon from WSR at 3:09.95; Jude Rayphand from SVS at 3:15.29; and Ryu Aguon from WSR at 3:35.06.

The 9U girls 800m Top 3 were Scarlett Burrell at 3:28.78; Neveah Arriola at 3:32.35; and Mitchiko Laniyo at 3:56.78.

The 12U girls 800m Top 3 were a sweep by SIS with

Leilani Ruszala at first with 3:24.17; Windsor Gross at 3:24.91; and Isla Grant at 3:29.17.

In the 9U girls long jump event, KobES' Baylyn Mansfield led with a distance of 2.71; second was Scarlett Burrell at 2.51; and Neveah Arriola was third at 2.22.

Results of the middle school and high school athletics will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.



Brunson, Randle
push Knicks past
Cavaliers in Game 1

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Pepoy's outlasts
Ol'Aces in masters
caging

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMIFA holds send-off ceremony for U17 women's team

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association held a send-off ceremony for the NMI U17 Women's National Team last Friday at the jam-packed NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The 20-member team is competing in the AFC U20

Asian Women's Cup 2024 Qualifiers in Thailand.

They are playing in Group A of the qualifiers and will be battling Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia in the Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned tournament that will run from April 26 to 30 at the Buriram City Stadium.

The team includes Mia Ysabela Abuan, Mariana Katherine Angeles, Stacy Lu-

cille Arriola, Joselynn Larissa Atalig, Hailey Shae Benavente, Andrei Kaithlyn and Julie Anne Chavez, Anna Julia Dalusung, Megan Mae Elayda, Valerie Anne Estela, Azriel

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LEIGH GASES

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association held a send-off ceremony for the 20 members of the NMI U17 Women's National Team, pictured with their officials, last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



Sildrey, Akiko top NMA 10K Road Race



Veloria



Miller

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

Sildrey Veloria and Akiko Miller topped their respective divisions in the Northern Marianas Athletics 10K Road Race last Saturday.

Out of 32 other runners, Veloria came in first overall with a sub-43 minute 10K at 42:25, while Miller came in first in the women's division and second overall at 43:35.

Miller broke the previous women's record held by Noriko Jim which was 43:50.2.

Chad Taflinger came in second behind Veloria with an even 47:47 and third was Adam Walsh with 51:15.

Ann Bang came in second after Miller with a time of

53:14; and Shawna Brennfleck was third place with 54:59.

Veloria said that his 10K time was his personal best. The course itself, according to him, was fast and easy. "After running a lot of hills, it felt a lot easier, but then again, there wasn't that much competi-

tion," he said. "I wasn't able to push my pace as much as I wanted, but overall it was a good race."

He then thanked NMA and Run Saipan for "putting out a great event. I won't be running without them. I feel like running is boring when there's no competition or event to look forward to."

For Miller, she said it was "Good weather, not too hot, not raining and a very organized course. Volunteers lead the race by bicycle [and] it was safe for runners because [it was] still dark in the early morning. All aid stations [were] cheering and supporting us. [The] timing system was perfect. I was able to confirm my official time [a] few

hours later. I want to say thank you to NMA, Run Saipan, and aid-station volunteers."

She added, "I am happy with my time. I had [a] knee injury for 5 months and I was worried I [couldn't] run anymore, but I like to exercise and did not stop walking and swimming. Maybe it was a good recovery for me."

I learned controlling running distance and speed etc. because I am not [a] young runner. I have to be more careful than before."

"I was running behind Sildrey 100m to 200m all the way. [I] check my laps every 1K then try to keep my pace. After 4K it was very hard but I could push myself," she said. "And I want to say

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SIS, KobES lead ES athletics qualifiers

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

Saipan International School and Koblerville Elementary School led Group 1 in Week 2 of qualifiers in the NMA/PSS All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 last Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

The Geckos and Umangs topped seven heats each in the 60m, 200m, and 800m, as well as the long jump event.

SIS' Gabriel Walsh led the 9U boys 60m Heat 2 at 10.44; Jacob Borja from Oleai Elementary School was second at 10.63; and Lennox Sablan from Saipan Community School at 10.80 seconds.

KobES' Phillip Arriola was first in Heat 3 with 10.87; Sage

Tenorio from SCS was second at 11.49; Napu Angui from William S. Reyes Elementary School was third at 11.78; and fourth was Tate Aldan from SCS at 13.71 seconds.

In the 12U boys 60m Heat 2, first place was Ben Hos-sain from KobES at 8.79; second was Jude Rayphand from San Vicente Elementary School at 9.52; and third was Alexander Salundaguit from OES at 9.69 seconds.

KobES' Baylyn Mansfield led the 9U girls 60m Heat 1 at 10.26; Breanne Ilo from OES was second at 10.58; and third was Ashia Aguon from WSR at 10.86 seconds.

Heat 3 was led by SIS' Scarlett Burrell 10.07; second was teammate Neveah Arriola

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, elementary school students are neck-and-neck during a boys sprint event of the NMA/PSS All School Athletics 2022-2023 held at the Oleai Sports Complex.